CHAIN MAIL *Elegance*

Jewelry Projects with
Crystals, Pearls, and More

SUE RIPSCH

CHAIN MAIL *Elegance*

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KALMBACH BOOKS

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to my third book featuring chain mail jewelry. In this volume, I have used chain mail techniques and have added crystals, pearls, or other types of color, sparkle, and shine. These additions result in truly elegant pieces of fine jewelry.

In my first book, *Classic Chain Mail Jewelry*, I shared information about the history of chain mail, metals used for the jewelry, technical details concerning jump ring gauge and sizes, tools used with the technique, storage of jump rings, and work area considerations. I taught you how to weave jump rings for beginner through intermediate chains. You can refer to that book for learning the basics about chain mail.

In my second book, *Classic Chain Mail Jewelry with a Twist*, I gave you information about the metals used for the jump rings, how to make your own jump rings, tumbling or polishing your jump rings and finished jewelry, and the process of identifying the aspect ratio of a weave so that you can easily alter the piece to make it larger or smaller in dimension. I also gave you illustrated instructions for beginner, intermediate, and advanced jewelry chains. Again, you can refer to that book to learn these intermediate techniques.

Chain Mail Elegance will expand your knowledge of making chain mail jewelry. You will begin to learn how to add color, texture, and sparkle to your pieces. You will actually learn to design your own unique piece of chain mail by altering or adding to the basic chain mail weave. I will explain the different ways to identify wire gauge used in the industry. I will provide a chart for converting inner diameter (ID) to outer diameter (OD) in the measurement of your jump rings. I will bring the ideas of gauge and diameter of the jump ring together as you work with aspect ratio to change the dimension of your jewelry piece.

Finally, please note that not all of the weaves in this book are original to me, but the instructions are my own. I hope this book will be a valuable resource to you as you work with chain mail designs.

— *Sue*

The Elegance of SPARKLE

My favorite type of elegance is sparkle. Adding crystals, pearls, beads, rondelles, or stones to the weave is fun and rewarding. I will teach you how to incorporate these glittering additions by using beading techniques with sterling silver wire or beading wire.

GLASS DONUT *Bracelet*

This fun and easy bracelet can be made in just 20–30 minutes! Use whatever type and color of donut you like. I chose Murano glass donuts, but you can select crystal or stone donuts, too.

a

b

BRACELET

1. Open all of the rings.
2. Run a single ring through two donuts, and close the ring. Run a second ring through the same path, and close the ring **(a)**.
3. Run a ring through one of the donuts from your chain and also through a loose donut, and close the ring. Run a second ring through the same path, and close the ring.
4. Repeat step 3 until you have connected all of the donuts into a chain. (You will have two open rings left.)
5. Run an open ring through an end donut and the lobster claw clasp. Run the other open ring through the other end donut and the other half of the clasp and close **(b)**.

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **28** 16-gauge 7mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 2 rings/donut
- **13–14** 12.4mm Murano glass donuts
- Lobster claw clasp

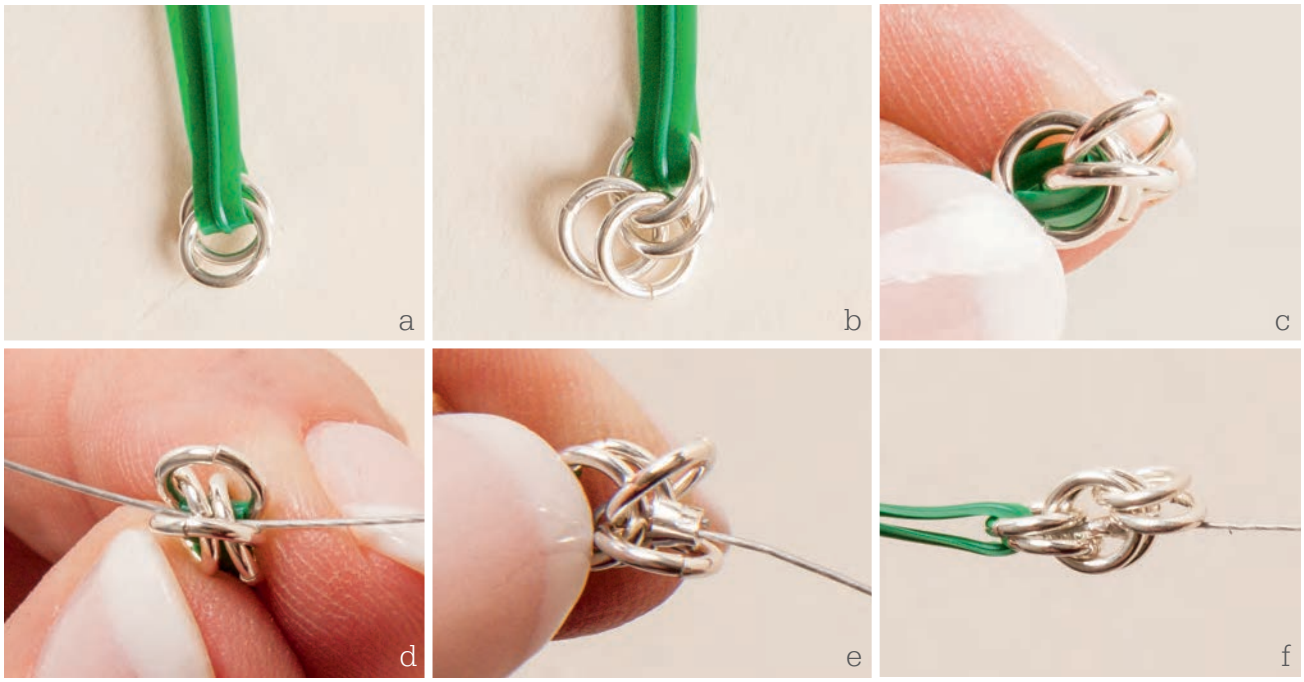
Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers

Note: You can use any type of donut that will fit the chain, but this may impact the number of donuts needed and the size of the connector rings.

LADDER IN MAIL
Bracelet

Choose round crystals in any color you like for a bracelet full of sparkle, color, and texture that is very comfortable to wear. It has it all!



BUILD THE CHAIN

1. Close two 4mm smooth rings. Run a wire tie through the rings, and twist the ends of the wire shut **(a)**. (This tool helps you hold the rings when the chain is short.)
2. Run an open 4mm smooth ring through the two rings on the end of the wire, and close the ring. Run a second ring through the same path. You now have a 2-2 chain **(b)**.
3. Flip the end rings of the chain down along the wire so they lay between your fingers as shown **(c)**.
4. Spread the two rings apart, and run a piece of beading wire through the two rings positioned between the spread-apart rings **(d)**.
5. String a crimp over the long and the short ends of the wire. Push the crimp up next to the rings, and crimp it closed. Trim the short wire end right next to the crimp.
6. Flip the two rings down so the crimp is inside the two end rings **(e)**.

Note: You are done using 4mm smooth rings until you reach the other end of the bracelet.

7. Run an open 3.5mm smooth ring (referred to as just a "smooth ring" from now on) through the two end rings of the chain, and close the ring. Run a second smooth ring through the same path **(f)**. (These two rings are side by side on the same side of the beading wire.)
8. Run two smooth rings through the last two smooth rings. You now have a 2-2-2 chain off of the first two rings on the wire **(g, p. 10)**. In this pattern, when you see a 2-2-2 chain, you go into the next "bunny ears" steps, 9–11.
9. **Bunny ears:** Flip the end two rings flat against the chain. Position them so that your thumb and first finger are on these rings, holding them against the chain **(h, p. 10)**.

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- Sterling silver jump rings
  8 18-gauge 4mm ID smooth
  28 18-gauge 4mm twisted, 4 rings/in.
  392 18-gauge 3.5mm smooth, 56 rings/in.
  56 18-gauge 3.5mm twisted, 8 rings/in.
- **11** 8mm round crystals
- **2** 6mm round crystals
- 12 in. (30cm) fine or medium beading wire
- **2** crimps
- Clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Crimping pliers
- Wire cutters
- Wire tie or piece of wire

10. Spread the end two rings apart so you clearly see the bottom edge of the two flipped down rings between the rings.
11. Run an open 3.5mm twisted ring through the bottom edge of the two twisted rings between the spread apart rings, and close the ring. This is called your "locking" ring. Run a second 3.5mm twisted ring through the same path **(i)**. Together, they are the locking rings that hold your folded (or flipped) rings in place.
12. Run two smooth rings through the twisted rings and close. Run another set of two smooth rings through the end smooth rings. Now you have a 2-2-2 (twisted–smooth–smooth) chain **(j)**. This is your cue to go back and perform the bunny ears steps in steps 9–11.
13. Place your locking rings as in step 11, only use two smooth rings instead of twisted rings **(k)**.
14. Add two sets of smooth rings off of the locking rings. You now have a 2-2-2 (smooth–smooth–smooth) chain. Perform the bunny ears steps (steps 9 and 10), but lock with twisted rings. (Note that you will alternate locking rings: the first set is twisted rings, then smooth rings, then twisted rings, and so on.)
15. Repeat step 7, placing those two rings on the other side of the beading wire as shown **(l)**.
16. Repeat steps 8–14 to make two completed segments, one on each side of the beading wire **(m)**.
17. Run two smooth rings through the inside edge of the two smooth locking rings on one of the segments **(n)**.
18. Run two smooth rings through the last set of two rings, forming a 2-2-2 chain (counting the locking rings as the first set) **(o)**.
19. Repeat steps 17 and 18 on the other segment of your chain **(p)**.
20. Repeat steps 9–11 (bunny ears steps) on one segment of the chain, using a 4mm twisted ring as the locking ring, but do not close the ring **(q)**.
21. Repeat step 20 on the other segment, and run the twisted locking ring through this set of rings to lock them also. Close the ring when it is locking the rings on both sides of the segment **(r)**. Run a second 4mm twisted ring through the same path **(s)**.
22. String a 6mm round crystal on the beading wire, and run the beading

wire through the two 4mm twisted rings **(t)**. This completes the first segment.

23. Repeat step 16 until you have built two segments on each side of the chain as before. You will again have a set of twisted, smooth, and twisted locking rings in each segment.
24. Repeat steps 17–22, except use an 8mm round crystal instead of a 6mm crystal **(u)**.
25. Continue repeating steps 23 and 24 until you reach the end of the bracelet **(v)**. Be sure to have placed the last sets of 4mm twisted rings locking both sides of the segments as before.
26. Build a segment on each side of the chain that is a 2-2-2 (twisted – smooth – smooth) chain. Perform the bunny ears steps on the end of a segment, and place a 4mm smooth ring through it as the locking ring, but don't close the ring. Perform the bunny ears steps on the end of the other segment, and run the 4mm smooth ring through it as a locking ring also. Close the ring. Run a second 4mm smooth ring through the same path.

FINISH THE BRACELET

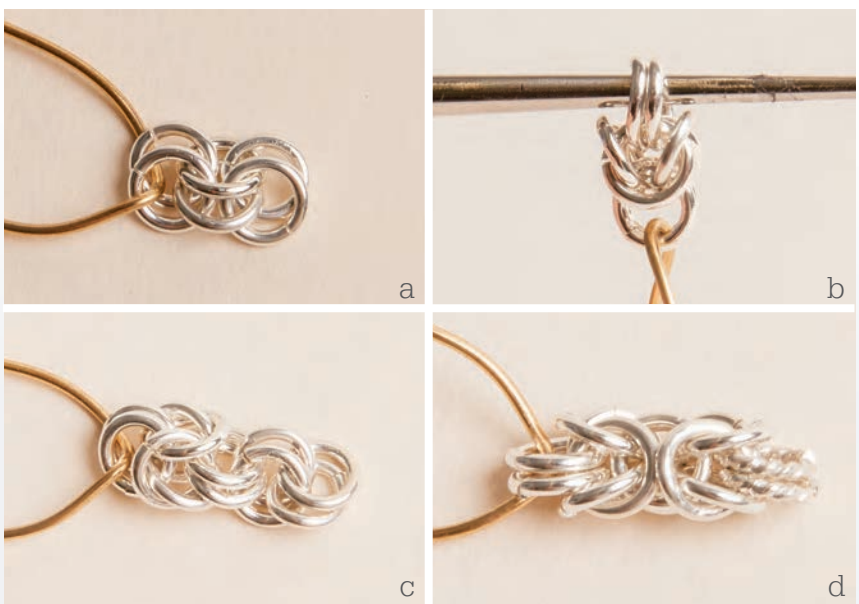
27. Make a temporary end for the bracelet: Run one or two 4mm smooth rings through a clasp and the two 4mm smooth rings on one end of your bracelet, and close the ring(s). Attach the other end of the clasp to the other end of the bracelet using the final two 4mm smooth rings. See if the bracelet fits. If it is too short, add some rings on each end of the chain (keeping it symmetrical), and then re-attach the clasp. If you need more length, add an 8mm crystal segment. If the bracelet is too long, remove the last 8mm crystal segment and refit the bracelet to your wrist, continuing to adjust until you reach the desired length.
28. Once the bracelet fits, run the beading wire through a 6mm crystal, a crimp, the two end rings on the chain (from step 26), and back through the crimp again. Be careful not to pull the beading wire too tight, or the bracelet will be stiff. Crimp the crimp and trim the beading wire **(w)**.

PEARLY GATES *Bracelet*

For this bracelet, use pearls, crystals, or any round 8mm bead or stone. Your choice will truly make this an individualized piece of jewelry.

BUILD THE CHAIN

1. Open a small pile of 3.5mm smooth rings (smooth), 4–8 4mm rings (4mm), and 4–8 3.5mm twisted rings (twisted). Close two smooth rings. Run a piece of scrap wire through the two rings. Place the rings at the center of the wire, bend the wire, and twist shut.
2. Run an open smooth ring through the two end rings and close. Run a second ring through the same path. You now have a 2-2 chain.
3. Repeat step 2 to create a 2-2-2 chain **(a)**.
4. Perform the "bunny ears" (steps 9–11) from the "Ladder in Mail Bracelet," p. 9, and lock with 4mm rings **(b)**.
5. Repeat steps 2 and 3 to form another 2-2-2 chain **(c)**. Perform the bunny ears steps, locking with twisted rings **(d)**. Throughout the rest of the chain, you will alternate sets of locking rings between 4mm smooth rings and twisted rings.



Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **84** 18-gauge 4mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 12 rings/in.
- **224** 18-gauge 3.5mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 32 rings/in.
- **28** 18-gauge 3.5mm ID twisted sterling silver jump rings, 4 rings/in.
- **28–30** 8mm Swarovski pearls, crystals, beads, or stones
- 24 in. (61cm) fine or medium beading wire
- **4** crimps
- Clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Crimping pliers
- Wire tie or piece of wire

6. Repeat steps 2–5 across the length of the chain. I have made a small piece of chain as shown **(e)**.

ADD THE ARMS

7. You can add arms to the chain anytime you desire. Run a 4mm ring through the first set of 4mm locking rings in your chain. Close the ring **(f)**. Run a second 4mm ring through the same path **(g)**.
8. Run a smooth ring through the last set of rings in step 7. Run a second smooth ring through the same path **(h)**.
9. Perform the bunny ears steps, locking with smooth rings **(i)**.
10. Repeat steps 7–9 on the other side of the chain **(j)**.
11. Build arms on both sides of the chain in the next set of 4mm locking rings **(k)**.
12. Build the chain and add arms along the entire length of the bracelet.

ADD THE PEARLS

13. Cut the piece of beading wire in half. String a crimp, run through the ring as shown, and then go back through the crimp. Crimp the crimp and trim the short tail of the beading wire **(l)**.
14. String the wire through the two locking rings on the side of the chain **(m)**. String a pearl (or whatever you have chosen) on the wire and then run the wire through the next set of two locking rings along the edge of the chain **(n)**.
15. Continue across the bracelet, stringing arms and pearls **(o)** until you reach the end.
16. Repeat steps 7–15 on the other side of the bracelet, beginning the wire at the same end of the chain as the first wire.
17. Run a smooth ring through an end of the clasp and through the two rings at end of the chain. Run a second ring through the same path if it will fit through the clasp **(p)**. Repeat on the other end of the chain and attach the other end of the clasp.
18. Pull the wires somewhat tight on the unfinished end of the bracelet to fit the chain to your wrist. Be careful not to pull them too tight, or the bracelet will be stiff. If you leave them too loose, the pearls will not fit nicely. Work with the bracelet to get the fit and the look that you desire. Note that as you pull the wire to tighten the pearls, the bracelet will shorten. You may need to add more length to the chain. Once you have the length you desire, finish this end of the bracelet as in step 13.

BYZANTINE STAR

Pendant & Earrings

Materials

Earrings

- **160** 21-gauge 2.5mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- 20 in. (51cm) fine beading wire, 0.014 or 0.015mm diameter
- **10** 6mm bicone crystals
- **20** 2mm silver balls
- **2** micro or regular crimps
- Pair of earring findings

Pendant

- 18-gauge 3.5mm ID sterling silver jump ring
- **80** 21-gauge 2.5mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- 10 in. (26cm) fine beading wire
- **5** 6mm bicone crystals
- **10** 2mm silver balls
- Purchased neck chain

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Crimping pliers
- Bead stopper (optional)
- Wire tie or piece of wire (optional)

a

b

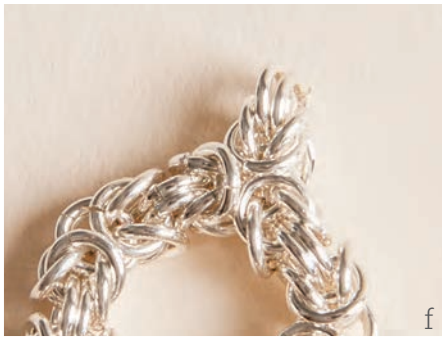
c

d

PENDANT

1. Open a small pile of rings. Continue to open rings as needed.
2. Follow steps 1–5 from the "Pearly Gates Bracelet," p. 13, using only the 2.5mm rings to make a Byzantine segment.
3. Continue building the chain until you have five Byzantine segments **(a)**. You will have 10 sets of locking rings across the chain, ending with a 2-2-2 chain.
4. Remove one of the locking rings from the beginning of your chain. Open the other locking ring, but do not remove it. Perform the bunny ears steps on the other end of the chain, and then run your open locking ring through this end as well **(b)**. Close the ring. You will now have locked the fold in place on both ends of the chain forming a circle of chain. Run the other open locking ring through the same path to complete the circle of chain is **(c)**. You should not be able to tell where the circle begins or ends.
5. Run an open ring through any set of locking rings around the circle **(d)**. Close the ring. Run a second ring through the same path.
6. Run two open rings through the last two rings you just placed **(e)**.
7. Follow steps 7–11 from the "Pearly Gates Bracelet," p. 14. You have now built an "arm" on the outside of the Byzantine circle **(f)**.
8. Repeat steps 5–7 through the other four sets of locking rings that allows the "arms" to be stationed around the outside of the circle. You will now have a five-pointed star **(g)**.
9. Place one end of the beading wire through the two rings of the top point of your star. String a 2mm ball, a 6mm crystal, and a ball onto the other end of the beading wire **(h)**.
10. Run the end of the beading wire through the top rings of the next point on your star **(i)**. You can place a bead stopper on the top end of your beading wire to help hold it in place as you thread the crystals and balls.
11. Continue repeating steps 9 and 10 through all points of the star until you have placed five crystals as shown **(j)**.

e


f

g

h

i

j

k

l

m

12. String the first end of the beading wire through two rings on what will be the back of the pendant.
13. String the other end of the beading wire through the same two rings in the same direction as the first end of the beading wire **(k)**.
14. Place a crimp over both wires and crimp the crimp **(l)**. Cut the beading wire close to the crimp. This will be the back side of your pendant, so the crimp will not show.
15. Make a 2-2 chain off of the top two locking rings or the top point of your star. Perform the bunny ears steps and lock the fold in place with two rings.
16. Run the 18-gauge ring through the top two rings to make a bail. Run the purchased neck chain through the bail **(m)**.

Note: If you are using a purchased chain that has a large clasp on the end, open the bail ring and close it around the chain rather than trying to run the chain through the bail ring.

EARRINGS

Make a pendant. In step 16, lock the fold in place with only one ring. Before closing this ring, run it through an earring finding and close. Repeat for the second earring.

FRENCH ROPE WITH CRYSTALS

Bracelet

Combine interesting chain mail techniques with bead stringing. For this weave to succeed, you must use half-round rings, which are round on the outside but flat on the inside.

BRACELET

1. Open about 20 half-round rings and close one ring. Run a wire tie or a piece of wire through the closed ring **(a)**. Bend the wire in half and twist the ends of the wire closed. This helps you to hold onto the chain as you are at the early stages of building it.
2. Run an open ring through the ring on the wire, and close the ring.
3. Place the first two rings as shown **(b)**, and run an open ring from the bottom up through the first two rings as shown **(c)**. Close the ring.
4. Press the rings between your fingers until they lay in a layer as shown **(d)**. Note that the first ring in the chain on the left is above the second ring, which is above the third ring.
5. Run an open ring up through the bottom, catching all three of the rings **(e)**. Close the ring. Try and keep track of which ring is your end ring.
6. Continue positioning the last three rings in a flat line and running an open ring up through the bottom and through the last three rings on the end of the chain **(f)**.

Note: In the beginning, the first dozen or so rings on the chain may not look correct. Ignore that and keep building the chain. When you have 3 in. (7.6cm), you should start to see the multiple twists in the chain. The chain forms the twists automatically. If you reach the end of your chain and you find that you had some rings incorrectly placed in the beginning, then remove those rings and make the chain longer on the other end.

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **2** 16-gauge 5mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- **98** 16-gauge 4.75mm ID half-round sterling silver jump rings, 14 rings/in.
- **2** 20-gauge 2mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- **80–90** 3mm rondelles, round, or bicone crystals
- 12 in. (31cm) fine beading wire
- **2** crimps
- Clasp

Tools

- **2** pairs of flatnose pliers
- Crimping pliers
- Wire cutters
- Bead stopper
- Wire tie or piece of wire

Note: Half-round rings tend to flip if you try to manipulate them with chainnose pliers. I use two sets of flatnose pliers for more stability while working with half-round rings.

g

h

i

7. Continue the pattern until you reach the desired length. Attach one end of the clasp by running a 5mm ring through the last two or three half-round rings on one end of the chain and the clasp, and close. Repeat on the other end of the bracelet with the other end of the clasp **(g)**.
8. String the beading wire through the end half-round ring, add a crimp, and crimp the end. Trim the short wire tail **(h)**.
9. String about 80 crystals onto the beading wire. Place a bead stopper on the end of the wire to hold the crystals together tightly. Wrap the crystal wire around the chain, keeping it in the groove of the chain as shown **(i)**. When you reach the other end of the chain, remove the bead stopper, keeping the crystals tight on the wire and in place around the chain. Add or remove crystals as needed. Place a crimp onto the wire and run the wire through the end half-round ring and back through the crimp. Crimp, and trim the wire.
10. Open both 20-gauge rings. Run one ring around the beading wire between the second and third crystals from one end of the chain. Before closing, also run it through the closest ring in the chain. Repeat on the other end of the chain with the second ring.

CRYSTAL WAVE
Bracelet

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **63** 18-gauge 6mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 9 rings/in. (large rings)
- **42** 18-gauge 3.5mm ID twisted sterling silver jump rings, 6 rings/in. (twisted rings)
- **16** 18-gauge 3mm ID sterling silver jump rings (small rings)
- 12 in. (31cm) 20-gauge sterling silver wire
- **6–7** 8mm round Swarovski crystals
- Clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Roundnose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Wire tie or piece of wire

This bracelet makes me think of waves rolling on a beach. The crystals seem to glow, like the peaks of the waves as they reach the shore.

BRACELET

1. Close two large rings and run a wire tie through them. Bend the wire in half and twist the end closed.
2. Open two twisted rings and run one of them through the two large rings and close. Run the second ring through the same path **(a)**.
3. Insert an open large ring between the two large rings on the wire tie while at the same time going around the two small rings. Close the ring. This ring is called your "floater" ring as it does not go through any rings, but between and around rings **(b)**.
4. Run an open large ring through the two twisted rings on one side of the floater ring and close. Turn the chain over and run another large ring through the twisted rings on the other side of the floater ring **(c)**.
5. Repeat steps 2–4 until your chain is about 1–2 in. (2.5–5cm) longer than your desired length **(d)**.
6. Using about a 2-in. (5cm) piece of 20-gauge sterling silver wire, make a wrapped loop on one end, ensuring that an 18-gauge ring will fit through the loop. String a crystal on the wire, and make another wrapped loop on the other end **(e)**. Make six or seven of these crystal components.

7. Run a small ring through one of the wrapped loops and also through the second set of double large rings from the end of the chain. Close the ring **(f)**.
8. Run another small ring through the other wrapped loop and also through the third set of large double rings from where you attached the other end of the crystal component.
9. Run a small ring through the wrapped loop on another crystal component and also through the same set of double rings to which you just attached the first component, only go through the other edge (or other side) of the large rings. Close the ring. Skip two sets of large double rings, and attach the other end of the component onto the third set as you did before **(g)**. Continue in this manner along the edges of the chain. (I used six crystal components for my bracelet.)
10. Once the bracelet is the desired length, attach a clasp half to each end of the chain with small rings **(h)**.

CELTIC
Pendant

A 6mm bead is the focal point for this pendant, with smaller beads adding interest to the chain. My piece has hematite beads, but you could pick crystals or stones instead.

PENDANT

1. Repeat steps 1–4 from the "Crystal Wave Bracelet," p. 22, using large and small rings as directed in the materials list, until you have used 14 large rings and eight small rings **(a)**.
2. Bring the ends of the chain together and run a small ring through the two large rings on both ends. Close the ring. Run another small ring through the same path **(b)**.
3. Place a floater ring around the two small rings you just placed. You should now have a continuous circle of rings and not be able to tell where the circle begins or ends **(c)**.
4. Cut a 2-in. (5cm) piece of wire, and insert it through one side of the pendant, the 6mm bead, and then out through the other side of the pendant. This will allow the bead to nest in the middle of the pendant **(d)**.
5. Make a small hook in the wire end. Pull the hook tight to the closest ring on the edge of the circle, and twist the hook closed around the ring. Shorten the other end of the wire, and twist it around a ring on the other edge of the circle **(e)**. (This is the back side of the pendant where the wire will not show.)
6. Open a small ring and run it through two side-by-side floater rings in the pendant. Close the ring **(f)**.
7. Continue placing small rings around the circle as in step 6 until you have five rings in this position **(g, p. 26)**.

Note: You can stop here with the pendant if you desire. This will make a somewhat flexible pendant. Continuing on to the next step makes the pendant more rigid.

Materials

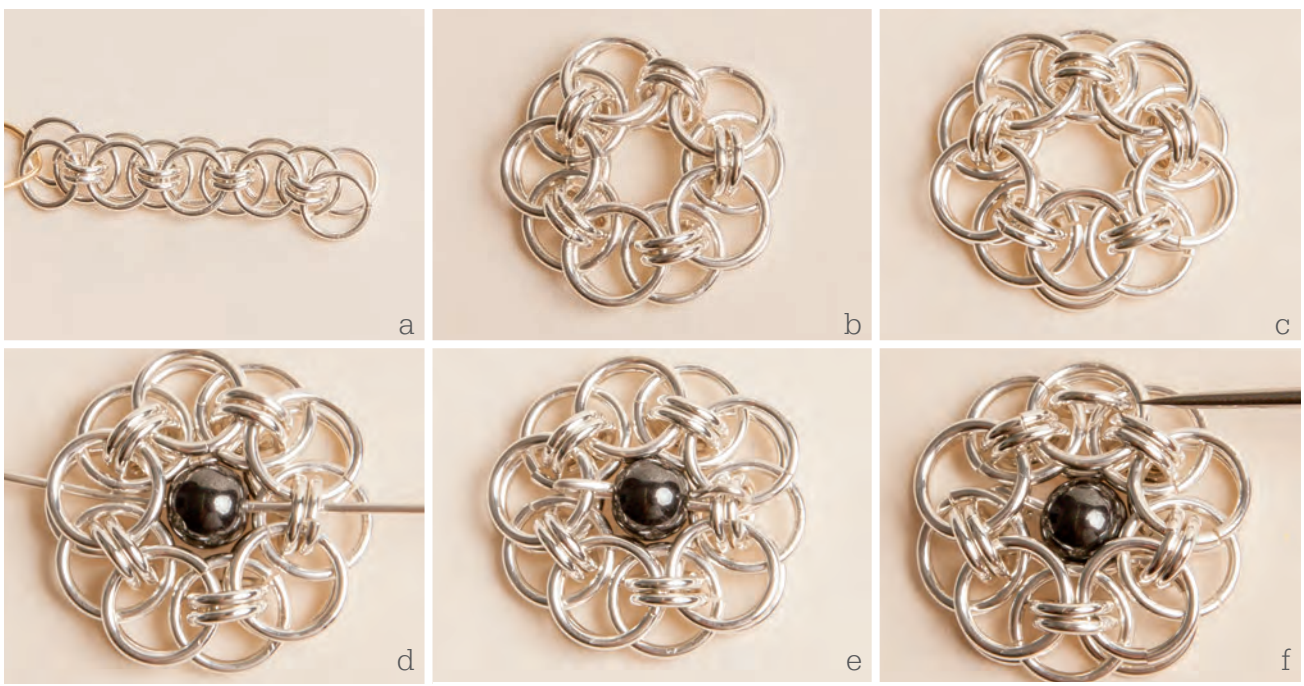
Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- Sterling silver jump rings
  15 18-gauge 6mm ID (large)
  25 18-gauge 3.5mm ID (small)
- 6mm bead for the focal
- **3** 4mm beads
- **5** 3mm sterling silver beads
- 12 in. (30cm) 22-gauge sterling silver wire
- 2-in. (5cm) 22-gauge sterling silver headpin
- 24 in. (61cm) sterling silver chain
- Lobster claw clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Roundnose pliers

Note: I like to use chain with large links so I can run an 18-gauge ring through it and attach a lobster claw clasp anywhere along its length.



8. Open a small ring and place it through two large rings and a floater ring which is beside them **(h)**. Be sure that the ring lies on top of the last row of small rings that you placed in steps 6 and 7.
9. Continue around the circle, placing more small rings as in step 8. When complete, you will have used ten small rings in this outer row around the pendant **(i)**.
10. Cut a 3-in. (7.6cm) piece of 22-gauge sterling silver wire. Make a loop on one end, and before closing the loop, run it through a floater ring on the pendant **(j)**. (Be sure the short end of wire is long enough to make a couple of wraps for closing.) Finish the wire wraps and trim the short tail.
11. String a 3mm bead, a 4mm bead, and a 3mm bead on the remaining long wire end **(k)**. Make a wrapped loop on this end to match the first end, being sure the loop is large enough for an 18-gauge ring to go through it. Trim any excess wire.
12. Repeat steps 10 and 11, making a matching bead attachment using the next floater ring in the circle of the pendant **(l)**.
13. Cut the neck chain in half, and attach one half to one of the beading attachments with a small ring. Attach the other half to the other beading attachment with a small ring. (You can also attach the neckchain to the wrapped loop before closing the loop) **(m)**. Attach a lobster claw clasp to one end of the chain.
14. Add a small decorative dangle to the other end of the chain: String a 3mm bead and a 4mm bead on a headpin, and connect it to the end link of the chain with a wrapped loop. When you adjust the length of the necklace, the hanging end looks very pretty **(n)**.

CELTIC RONDELLE EXPLOSION

Bracelet

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- Sterling silver jump rings
  64 18-gauge 8mm ID, 9 rings/in.
  28 18-gauge 6mm ID, 4 rings/in.
  28 18-gauge 4mm ID, 4 rings/in.
  64 18-gauge 3.5mm ID, 9 rings/in.
  12 20-gauge 2.75mm ID
- **25–30** 6mm Swarovski crystal rondelles or any 4x3mm rondelles
- **50–60** 2mm sterling silver balls
- **4** crimps
- **4** wire guards
- 24 in. (61cm) fine beading wire
- Two-strand clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Crimping pliers
- Cutters

BUILD THE CHAINS

1. Cut two 12-in. (31cm) pieces of beading wire. String one wire through a crimp, a wire guard, and back through the crimp, and then close the crimp. Repeat with the other piece of beading wire. Trim the short wire end on each piece **(a)**.
2. Open two 2.75mm rings. Run one ring through the wire guard of one wire and through a loop on the clasp. Close the ring. Run another 2.75mm ring through the same path **(b)**.
3. Open two 8mm rings. Run one ring through the two small rings hanging from the clasp, and close it. Run the other ring through the same two small rings on the other side of the wire guard, and close it **(c)**.
4. Open two 3.5mm rings. Run one ring through the two 8mm rings, and close it. Run the other ring through the two large rings on the other side of the beading wire, and close it **(d)**.

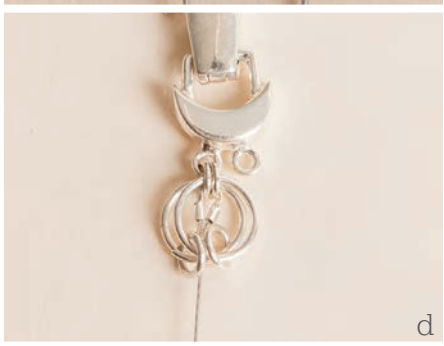
Note: The beading wire must always run down the middle of the chain.

5. Open a 6mm ring and run it between the two 8mm rings and around the 3.5mm rings **(e)**. This ring does not go through any rings and is called a "floater" ring.
6. Run an 8mm ring through the two 3.5mm rings on top of the floater ring, and close it **(f)**. Turn the chain over, and run a second 8mm ring through the two 3.5mm rings on the

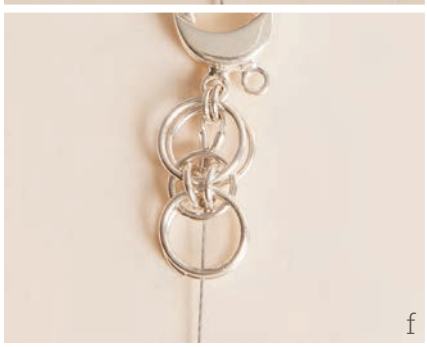
a

b

c


d

e


f

g

h

other side of the floater, and close it. The floater is now sandwiched between four 8mm rings.

7. String a 2mm ball, a rondelle, and a 2mm ball on the beading wire.
8. Push the balls and rondelle up into the 8mm rings. Run a 3.5mm ring through the two 8mm rings and close. Run a second 3.5mm ring through the two 8mm rings on the other side of the wire and close **(g)**.
9. Repeat step 5, placing another floater ring. This will trap the balls and the rondelle within the 8mm rings **(h)**.
10. Leaving this side of the chain, open four of the 2.75mm rings. Run two rings side by side through the other loop on your clasp. Run the other two 2.75mm rings through the two end rings and close. You now have a 2-2 chain hanging from the other loop of your clasp **(i)**. The extra set of two rings causes your two chains to be offset.
11. Run a 3.5mm ring through the end two rings and through the wire guard from the second piece of beading wire and close. Run a second 3.5mm ring through the same path **(j)**.
12. Repeat step 3 with two 8mm rings **(k)**.
13. Repeat step 4 with two 3.5mm rings.
14. Place a floater ring as in step 5. Always keep the floater ring above the beading wire for the top of your bracelet **(l)**.
15. Repeat step 6 with two 8mm rings.
16. Repeat steps 7 and 8 **(m)**.
17. Place a floater ring as in step 5 **(n)**.
18. Repeat step 6 on both ends of the chain **(o)**. Continue building both chains, following steps 6–9.

ATTACH THE CHAINS

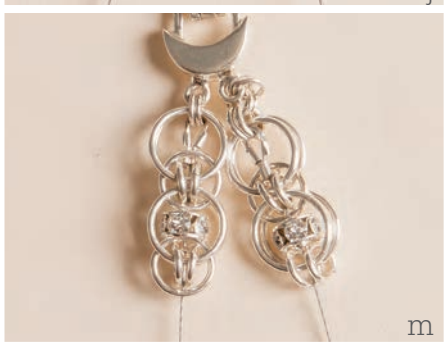
19. Open a 4mm ring. Run it through the first floater ring of one chain and then also through the first floater ring of the second chain and close **(p)**.
20. Run another 4mm ring through the first floater in the chain on the right and the second floater in the chain on the left and close **(q)**. Continue to connect them in this same manner.
21. Finish the other end of the bracelet and attach it to the clasp as in the beginning. Be sure not to pull your beading wire too tight before crimping.

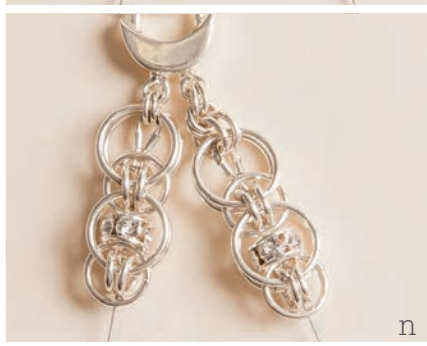
i

j

k

l


m


n

o

p

q

OPEN ROUND MAIL *Bracelet*

This version of the open round mail weave has eye-catching color, which comes from the crystals that glow from within the chain. There is also a sparkle that comes from the twisted rings that are interspersed along the length of the bracelet. Darker colored crystals make the best statement in this piece of jewelry.

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **56** 18-gauge 5.5mm ID sterling silver jump rings (smooth)
- **51** 16-gauge 5.5mm ID twisted sterling silver rings (twisted)
- **4** 20-gauge 3mm ID rings (connector)
- **40–50** 4mm bicone Swarovski crystals
- **2** crimps
- **2** wire guards
- 12 in. (30cm) fine beading wire
- Clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Crimping pliers
- Cutters
- Wire tie or piece of wire

BUILD THE CRYSTAL COMPONENT

1. String the beading wire through a crimp, a wire guard, and back through the crimp, and then close the crimp. Trim the short end of the wire. Run a connector ring through the wire guard and close. Run a second connector ring through the same path. Run a smooth ring through the two connector rings and close. Run a second smooth ring through the same path **(a)**. (Please note that I have already placed the crystals on my wire. Yours will not have crystals in this step.)
2. Place a wire tie or piece of wire through the end rings, bend the wire in half, and twist the ends of the wire closed. Add crystals to the wire until the length of it will fit tightly around your wrist **(b)**. Repeat step 1 on this end of the wire, being sure that the crystals fit tightly between the crimps.

Note: You want the crystal length to be tight around your wrist, as there will be additional length provided by rings and your clasp in the completed bracelet. If you make your crystal length too long, you will not be able to shorten the bracelet.

BUILD THE CHAIN

3. Place a smooth ring through the connector rings and close. Place a second smooth ring through the connector rings, only place it on the other side of the crystal component and close **(c)**. In this weave, the crystal component always runs down the middle of the chain as you build your chain around the crystals.
4. Run a smooth ring through one of the two rings you added in step 3. Run a second smooth ring through the other ring from step 3. Run a third smooth ring through both of the rings from step 3.

a

b

c

d

e

f

Note: You will alternate the rows of three rings between smooth and twisted. Step 4 was your first row of smooth.

5. Position your rings from step 4 so that they hang in a triangle **(d)**. You may have to "adjust" or reposition one or two of them to accomplish this. Each point of the triangle will be where two rings touch together. Once you have positioned the traingle, run a twisted ring through one of the points of the triangle where two rings touch (through two rings) and close. Run a second twisted ring through another point on the triangle and close. Run a third twisted ring through the final point on the triangle and close **(e)**.
6. Repeat step 5 using smooth rings. You will find that after step 5, the triangle hangs nicely without having to be positioned.
7. Continue adding rows of three rings, alternating between smooth and twisted rings, until you are within one row of the connector rings on the end of the crystal component.
8. Run a smooth or twisted ring (whichever is next in the chain) through a point of the triangle and also through the connector rings of the crystal component. Run a second ring through another point on the triangle and through the connector rings of the crystal component.
9. To attach the clasp, open the end rings and run them through one half of your clasp and close. Repeat on the other end of the chain with the other half of your clasp. If two rings will not fit through your clasp loop, remove one and only attach with one ring **(f)**. If the bracelet is not as loose as you like, add a ring or two on each end of the chain before the clasp.

COSMIC EYE

Bracelet & Earrings

Materials

Bracelet, 6½–7 in. (16.5–17.8cm)

- Sterling silver jump rings
  6 14-gauge 7.5mm ID
  24 17-gauge 6mm ID
  6 19-gauge 3.6mm ID
  24 21-gauge 3.6mm ID
- **6** 14mm Swarovski Cosmic Rings
- Two-row clasp

Earrings

- Sterling silver jump rings
  2 14-gauge 7.5mm ID
  8 17-gauge 6mm ID
  2 19-gauge 3.6mm ID
  8 21-gauge 3.6mm ID
  2 18-gauge 3.5mm ID
- **2** 14mm Swarovski Cosmic Rings or other 14mm round circles
- Earring findings

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire tie or piece of wire

Note: One eye and one cosmic ring measures 1 in. (2.5cm). I began and ended the chain with an eye, although you don't have to end this way. You can always add rings to make the bracelet longer. It's best to fit this bracelet somewhat snug to the wrist.

This bracelet and earrings project sparkles with color from the Swarovski Cosmic rings that are interspersed along the chain.

BRACELET

1. Close four 21-gauge rings and open a 19-gauge ring. With the 19-gauge ring, pick up the four closed 21-gauge rings and close **(a)**.
2. Run an open 14-gauge ring through the four 21-gauge rings and close. Note that the 19-gauge ring is now hanging at the bottom of the chain in the picture **(b)**.
3. Run a 17-gauge ring through the 14-gauge ring and close **(c)**.
4. Position your rings as shown **(d)**. Run another 17-gauge ring on the other side of the two 21-gauge rings, and close. This will sandwich two of the 21-gauge rings between two 17-gauge rings. Run a wire tie or piece of wire through the two 17-gauge rings **(e)**.
5. Run a 17-gauge ring through the 14-gauge ring on one side of the second set of 21-gauge rings and also through a Cosmic Ring. Close the ring. Run a second 17-gauge ring through the 14-gauge ring on the other side of the two 21-gauge rings and also through the Cosmic Ring. Close the ring **(f)**.
6. Repeat steps 1–3, only before closing the 17-gauge ring, run it through the Cosmic Ring on your chain. Close the ring. Repeat step 4 with another 17-gauge ring, running it through the 14-gauge ring and the Cosmic Ring. Repeat steps 1–6 until the bracelet is the desired length, ending with 17-gauge rings **(g)**.
7. This bracelet works best if attached to a two-row clasp or a one-row clasp that can accommodate two rings. Open one of the 17-gauge rings on the end of the chain and run it through one loop on your clasp. Close the ring. Open the other 17-gauge ring on the same end of the chain and run it through the other loop on your clasp. Close the ring. Repeat on the other end of the chain with the other half of your clasp **(h)**.

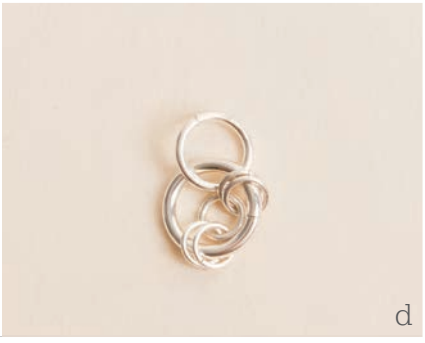
EARRINGS

Repeat steps 1–5 from the bracelet instructions. Run an 18-gauge 3.5mm ring through the two end 17-gauge rings from step 5 and also through an earring finding. Close the ring **(i)**. Repeat to make a second earring.

a

b

c


d

e

f

g

h

i

SPARKLING CELTIC *Bracelet*

This bracelet is a variation of the "Celtic Vision Bracelet" in *Classic Chain Mail Jewelry with a Twist*. I have added twisted rings and crystals to the basic pattern giving the bracelet a lot of "bling!"

BUILD THE CHAIN

1. Open a pile of large rings and close a pile of small rings. With a large ring, pick up four small rings and close **(a)**.
2. With another large ring, pick up five small rings **(b)**. Do not close the ring.
3. Run the large open ring from step 2, through one of the four small rings from step 1, and close **(c)**.
4. Continue picking up five small rings with a large ring, and before closing the large ring run it through the center ring of the five-ring cluster on the end large ring in the chain. Close the ring **(d)**.
5. Once you have an initial length of chain, take an open twisted ring and pick up four small rings that are stationed around the connecting small ring. Be sure that after you place the twisted ring, the small rings lie as shown **(e)**.

Note: I call these small rings "soldiers" because they are standing at attention. If you go the wrong way through the rings, the soldiers will be lying from right to left and not standing straight.

When placing the twisted ring, think of going in a circle through the small rings. If you start at the top left small ring, you go in from the left, across and through the other small ring from the left to the right side (inside to outside). Hang onto the twisted ring with the pliers, and let go of the bracelet so it hangs from the large ring. Still holding the large ring, pick the bracelet up and position it so the last two small rings are at the top. Again, go in from the left, across and through the other small ring. Then close the twisted ring.

Check to see if the soldiers are standing at attention. If not, open the large ring close to the ring that is incorrect and reposition the ring so it stands up straight.

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **21** 18-gauge 6mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 3 rings/in. (large)
- **35** 18-gauge 6mm ID twisted sterling silver jump rings, 5 rings/in. (twisted)
- **90** 18-gauge 3.5mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 12 rings/in. (small)
- **36** 20-gauge 3mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 5 rings/in.
- **36** 6mm bicone crystals
- **36** 1-in. (2.5cm) or longer headpins
- Clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Roundnose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Wire tie or piece of wire

a

b

c

d

e

f

6. Run a piece of wire through an end small ring to give you something to hold onto. Continue across your chain adding twisted rings as shown in **f (p. 37)**. Once you have completed placing twisted rings across the length of the chain, flip the chain over **(g)**.
7. Repeat steps 5 and 6 on the other side. You will go through the same sets of small rings that you did on the first side. Once you have a twisted ring placed on both sides of the chain, you will see the weave **(h)**.
8. Continue across the chain, repeating steps 5–7 until you have reached the desired length. You may have to add length to the initial chain, as these steps tend to shorten the bracelet.

CRYSTAL DANGLES

9. String a crystal on a headpin. Make a closed loop on the end being sure that one of the 20-gauge rings (connector rings) will fit through the loop **(i)**. Make 36.
10. Run a connector ring through a loop on a crystal drop and two of the small rings on the chain as shown. Close the ring. Add all of the crystals across the length of each side of the bracelet **(j)**.
11. Remove any small loose rings from the end large ring on each end. Run a small ring through the end large ring and through half of the clasp and close. Repeat on the other end of the chain with the other half of the clasp **(k)**.

g

h

i

j

k

DOUBLE DELIGHT
Set

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **54** 18-gauge 5mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- **10** 6mm bicone crystals
- 10 in. 20-gauge sterling silver wire
- 1½–2-in. (3.8–5cm) headpin
- Lobster claw clasp

Necklace

- **150** 18-gauge 5mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- **26** 6mm bicone crystals
- 25 in. (64cm) 20-gauge sterling silver wire
- 1½–2-in. headpin
- Lobster claw clasp

Earrings

- Sterling silver jump rings
  20 18-gauge 5mm ID
  2 21-gauge 2.5mm ID
- **4** 6mm bicone crystals
- **2** 1½–2-in. headpins
- Pair of earring findings

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire tie or piece of wire

BRACELET

Make the Chain Component

1. Close two rings and open eight rings. Run a wire tie or piece of wire through the two closed rings. Bend the wire in half, and twist the ends of the wire shut **(a)**.
2. Run an open ring through the two end rings, and close the ring.
3. Hold the rings in your fingers as shown **(b)**. Run an open ring through the center of the last ring **(c)**. Close the ring.
4. Hold the wire with the chain hanging down. The rings should fall into the pattern shown **(d)**. Turn the chain to see how the rings look from the side **(e)**.
5. Run an open ring through the inside ring of the chain, being sure to go

j

k

l

m

n

o

p

beside the outside ring. Close the ring **(f)**.

6. Run a second ring through the inside ring on the other side of the middle ring, and close the ring **(g)**.
7. Run an open ring through the two rings on the end. Close the ring **(h)**.
8. Repeat steps 3 and 4 on the end of the chain. You have used eight rings so far **(i)**. Set the chain aside.

Add Crystal Components

9. Make a closed loop on the end of a 1½–2-in. (3.8–5cm) piece of sterling silver wire. Be sure that the loop is big enough for two 18-gauge jump rings to fit through. String two crystals on the wire. Make another closed loop on the other end **(j)**.
10. Repeat step 5: Run a ring through a loop on the crystal component and the inside ring. Close the ring **(k)**.
11. Repeat step 6: Run a ring also through the crystal component loop. You have now used 10 rings and added one crystal component to your chain **(l)**.
12. Repeat step 2: Run two rings through the loop on the other end of the crystal component. These are the first two rings (of your next 10 rings) of the next chain component **(m)**.
13. Continue making the chain by building chain components and attaching bead components until you have five chain components with four bead components across the length of the bracelet.

Finish the Bracelet

14. On one end of the chain, run a ring through the two end rings, and close the ring. Run a ring through the end ring, and close the ring. String two crystals on a headpin, and make a wrapped loop. You now have a decorative dangle. Run a single ring through the loop and through the end ring, and close the ring.
15. Remove the wire tie and run a single ring through the end two rings and a lobster claw clasp. Your bracelet is now complete **(n)**. For more length, add single rings to the dangle end before attaching the dangle.

NECKLACE

Following the bracelet directions, make 13 chain components connected to 12 crystal components. This will give you approximately 20 in. (51cm) before adding the clasp. Add another 4 in. (10cm) by connecting 20 single rings to the end of the chain. Add a dangle at the end **(o)**.

EARRINGS

1. Follow steps 1–8 of the bracelet directions using eight rings.
2. Make a decorative dangle as in step 14. Complete the chain component with the last two rings, but also run these two rings through the dangle.
3. Run a 21-gauge 2.5mm ring through the two rings on the end of the chain and also through an earring finding, and close the ring **(p)**. Repeat to make a second earring.

MESH BEADED CHAIN *Bracelet*

This is the slinkiest and most flexible bracelet that I own. It is not only comfortable, but it is also elegantly beautiful as it flows along your wrist.

BRACELET

1. Open four small rings and close two large rings. With a small ring, pick up the two large rings and close. Place another small ring through the same path **(a)**.
2. For a two-row clasp, run a small ring through a loop on the clasp and also through a large ring at the end of the chain. Close the ring. Repeat with a second small ring through the other loop on the clasp and through the large ring on the other end of the chain. Close the ring **(b)**. For a one-row clasp, run the small ring through the two small rings in the center of the chain and also through the loop on the clasp. Close the ring.
3. Make a closed loop on one end of the 20-gauge wire, and string a bead onto the wire. Be sure an 18-gauge ring will fit through the loop. Cut the wire leaving enough length to make a closed loop on the other side of the bead. This is the bead component. Make 19 components, or as many as you need for the length of the bracelet **(c)**. Set them aside until step 5.
4. Repeat step 1. Place this chain section next to the beginning section of the chain **(d)**.

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- Sterling silver jump rings
  42 18-gauge 5mm ID, 6 rings/in. (large)
  70 18-gauge 3.5mm ID, 10 rings/in. (small)
- **19** 8mm round beads, crystals or stones
- 24 in. (61cm) sterling silver wire
- One- or two-row clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Roundnose pliers
- Wire cutters

a

b

c

d

e

f

g

h

5. Run a small ring through the large ring in the beginning chain section and also through the large ring in the second section of the chain **(e)**. Before closing the ring, place a loop of the bead component through the small ring and close **(f)**.

Note: I like to place the bead component so the open side of the loop is toward the underside of the chain. The bracelet looks more finished if you have the bead components placed uniformly this way.

6. Repeat step 5 through the remaining large rings of both chain sections and also pick up the loop on the other end of the bead component **(g)**. Note how the small rings seem to stand up between the stones as you work across the chain.
7. Repeat steps 4–6 using the beading components made in step 3.
8. Repeat step 2 to attach the clasp to the end of the bracelet **(h)**.

PILLOWS SQUARED *Bracelet*

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- Sterling silver jump rings
  24 18-gauge 6mm ID
  12 18-gauge 4mm ID
  124 18-gauge 3.5mm ID, 20 rings/pillow plus 4 for connecting the clasp
- **6** 14mm Swaorvski square pendants
- Two-row clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire tie or piece of wire

Square Swarovski pendants add bling in the form of color, sparkle, and beauty to an already gorgeous silver bracelet.

PILLOW COMPONENT

Note: I've used blue rings for illustration purposes.

1. Perform steps 1–6 in the "Stairway to Heaven Bracelet," p. 73, until you have three components made. Repeat steps 1–5 again, but do not perform step 6. You now have four components without the final ring **(a)**.
2. Remove the wire from the end of the chain and open the ring that was on the wire. Pull the chain into a square and run the open ring through the hole of the overlapped rings on the other end of the chain, completing step 6 on this end **(b)**. Close the ring. You now have a square pillow **(c)**.
3. Make six pillows.

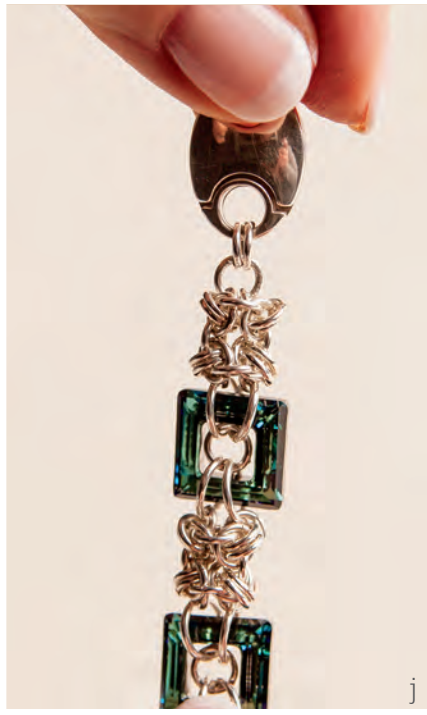
SQUARE COMPONENT

4. Run an 18-gauge 6mm ring through a corner ring on a pillow **(d)**. Before closing the ring, also run it through a square pendant. Close the ring **(e)**.
5. Repeat step 4 with another ring, going through the next corner ring on the pillow and also through the square pendant. Close the ring. You have now attached one pillow to one square **(f)**.
6. Attach a pillow to the other side of the square. Note that I have now switched to all silver rings **(g)**.

g

h

i


j

7. On the underside of the chain, run an open 4mm ring through the four 6mm rings and close the ring **(h)**. Run a second 4mm ring through the same path and close. These two rings give stability to the square.

Note: You can use only one 4mm ring if it is difficult for you to place two rings.

8. Continue connecting pillows and squares across the length of the bracelet **(i)**, stabilizing as in step 7 as you go. (I used six pillows and six squares.)

9. When your bracelet is the desired length, attach the clasp ends either to a square or to a pillow.

Pillow attachment: When attaching a two-row clasp to a pillow, perform step 4 using a 3.5mm ring and also run it through the loop on the clasp. Repeat on the other corner of the pillow, also attaching it to the clasp. When attaching a one-row clasp to a pillow, perform step 4, running the 3.5mm ring through both corners of the pillow and also through the ring(s) on the clasp **(j)**.

Square attachment: When attaching the clasp to a square, attach a second set of 6mm rings on the square. For a two-row clasp, attach a 3.5mm ring through one of the 6mm rings and then through the clasp. Repeat with another 3.5mm ring through the other 6mm ring and also attach it to the clasp. For a one-row clasp, attach a 3.5mm ring through both of the 6mm rings and then through the clasp.

CRYSTALETT LACE IN MAIL *Bracelet*

This is an exciting bracelet that I developed when a friend told me about Crystaletts. Crystaletts are tiny crystal buttons. Once I saw them, I knew I had to build a bracelet to show them off.

BRACELET

1. Run a 4.5mm connector ring through a Crystalett, and close.
2. Place a wire tie or piece of wire through the closed ring. Bend the wire in half and twist the ends of the wire closed **(a)**.
3. Run a connector ring through a new Crystalett and through the Crystalett from step 1. Close the ring **(b)**.
4. Repeat step 3 until you have a chain of 11 Crystaletts **(c)**.
5. Run a 5mm ring through two Crystaletts and through the last Crystalett on the chain. Close the ring **(d)**.
6. With a 5mm ring, pick up two Crystaletts and run it through one of the two Crystaletts on the end of your chain. Close the ring **(e)**.
7. With a 5mm ring, pick up one Crystalett and also run the ring through the Crystalett that is hanging loose on the second ring from the end of the chain. Before closing, run this ring through the left loose hanging Crystalett on the end of the chain. Close the ring **(f)**.

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- Sterling silver jump rings
  4 21-gauge 5mm ID
  39 21-gauge 4.5mm ID (connector)
  96 21-gauge 3.5mm ID (large)
  372 22-gauge 2mm ID (small)
- **26–31** 3mm Crystaletts
- Two-row clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire tie or piece of wire

a

b

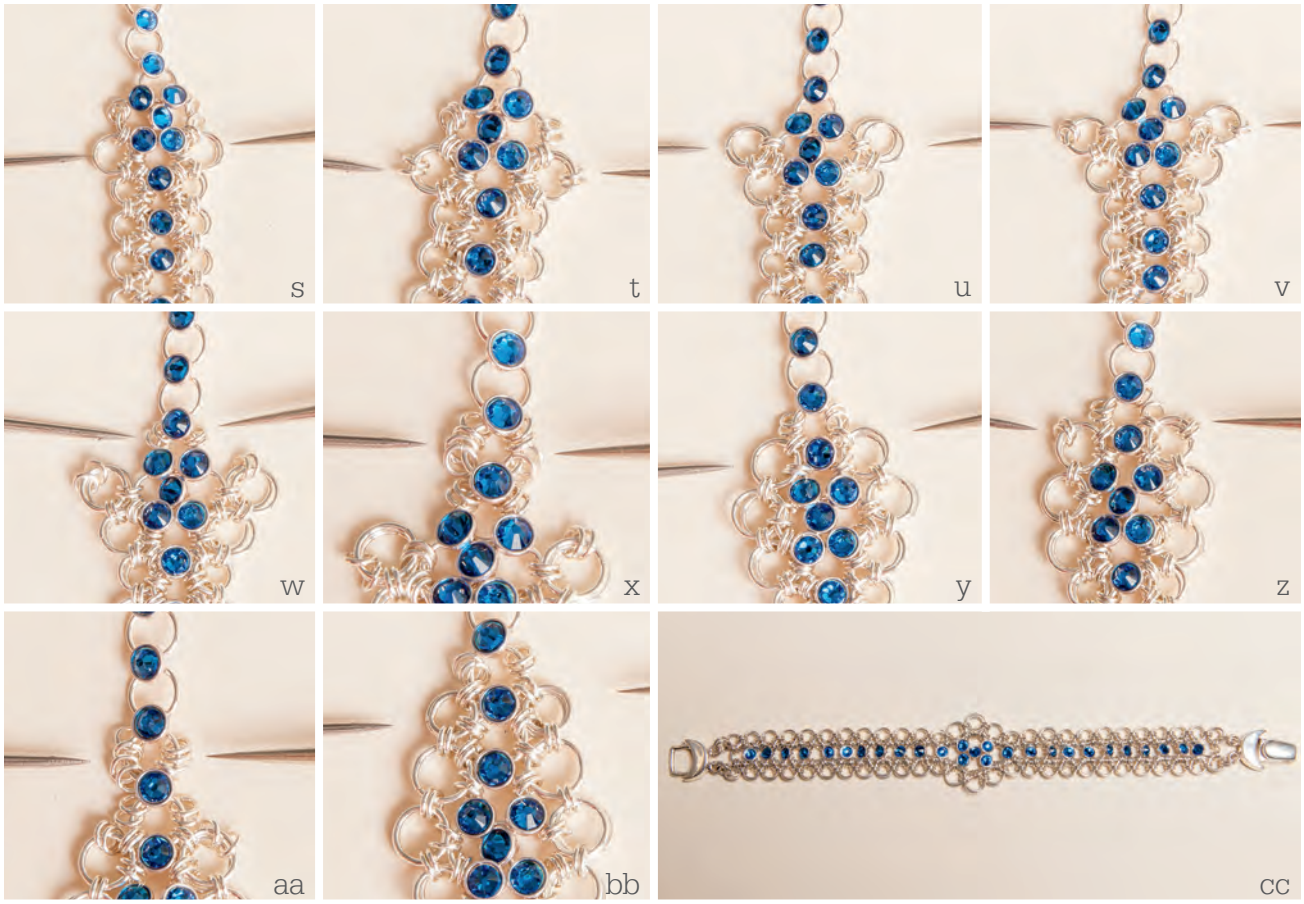
c

d

e

f

8. With a 5mm ring, pick up a Crystalett and run it through the two loose hanging Crystaletts from the two rings on the end of the chain. Close the ring **(g)**. You have formed the center focal point of the bracelet.
9. Repeat step 3 until you have the same number of Crystaletts on this end of the chain as you do on the other end of the chain, not counting the five focal point Crystaletts **(h)**. Fit the bracelet to your wrist taking into account your clasp and its attaching rings. Lengthen or shorten the chain as needed. (You will also have an opportunity when the bracelet is complete, but it is good to try and size it now.)
10. Run a small ring through the end ring by your wire and close. Repeat this with seven more small rings. Move the rings so that there are four on each side of the wire **(i)**.
11. Run a large ring through two of the small rings on one side and closest to the wire. Close the ring **(j)**.
12. Run a second large ring through the same path. Repeat steps 11 and 12 with large rings on the other side of the wire **(k)**.
13. Remove the wire from the end ring. Run a large ring through one set of the large rings from the last step and also go through a loop on the two-row clasp half. Run a second ring through the same path. Repeat with another large ring through the remaining set of large rings and also go through the second loop on the clasp half. Run a second ring through the same path **(l)**.
14. Run two small rings through one set of large rings from step 12 **(m)**.
15. Repeat step 14 through the other set of large rings from step 12 **(n)**.
16. Run four small rings through the second connector ring on the chain. Repeat with four small rings on the other side of the connector ring. You will have four rings hanging from each side of the connector ring **(o)**.
17. Run a large ring through six of the small rings (two rings each from three different larger rings) along one side of the chain. Run a second large ring through the same path.
18. Repeat step 17 on the other side of the chain. Your chain should be symmetrical **(p)**.
19. Add two small rings to each of the last added sets of large rings from steps 17 and 18.
20. Repeat steps 16–19 along both edges of the chain until you reach the five-Crystalett focal point of the chain **(q)**.
21. Add four small rings to the 5mm ring at the top of the chain. Add four small



rings to the 5mm ring at the bottom of the chain **(r)**.

22. Add two small rings to the last large ring on both sides of the chain.
23. Run a connector ring through three sets of two rings along the left side of the chain. Run a second connector ring through the same path. Repeat with two connector rings along the right side of the chain **(s)**.
24. Run two small rings through the connector rings on the left connector ring and the right connector rings added in step 23 **(t)**.
25. Run a connector ring through the two small rings from step 24 and two from the middle 5mm ring of the chain. Run a second ring through the same path. Repeat on the opposite edge of the chain **(u)**.
26. Add two small rings to the left side connector rings and two to the right side connector rings added in step 25 **(v)**.
27. Add two small rings on both sides to the last 5mm ring as you move along the chain **(w)**.
28. Add four small rings on both sides of the first connector ring as you move along the chain **(x)**.
29. Complete the central cluster by adding two connector rings through three sets of small rings on the left side of the chain, and two connector rings through three sets of small rings on the right side of the chain **(y)**.
30. Add two small rings to the two connector rings on the left side of the chain and repeat on the right side of the ring **(z)**.
31. Add four small rings to the left side of the next connector ring and repeat on the right side of the ring **(aa)**.
32. Run a large ring through six small rings (two from each of three rings) on the left side of the chain and repeat on the right side of the chain **(bb)**.
33. Continue along the chain adding large rings on each edge as with the middle cluster. Repeat steps 11–13 to attach the remaining clasp half **(cc)**.

INTERCHANGEABLE MAIL *Bracelet*

This bracelet is very unique within chain mail. The middle section of the bracelet can be quickly and easily removed and replaced with another section for a totally different look. This makes it a very versatile piece of jewelry.

BEADING COMPONENTS

1. Cut a 4-in. (10cm) piece of beading wire. String the wire through a crimp and a closed 3.5mm ring, and go back through the crimp. Crimp the crimp closed **(a)**.
2. Cut the short tail of the beading wire even with the crimp. Place a crimp cover over the crimp **(b)**.
3. String six 8mm crystals, beads, or pearls on the beading wire. String a crimp and finish off as in steps 1 and 2 **(c)**. Be sure that the final crimp is placed so that the beads are tight between the crimps. This will make up about one-third of the length of the bracelet.
4. Repeat steps 1–3 with the second set of crystals, beads, or pearls. You now have two interchangeable beading sections for the bracelet.

CHAIN COMPONENTS

5. Using only 5mm rings, open a small pile of the rings. Continue to open rings as needed.
6. Close two rings. Run an open ring through the two closed rings, and close the ring. Run a second ring through the same path. You now have a 2-2 chain. Place a wire tie through two of the end rings, and twist the ends of the wire closed **(d)**.
7. Holding the rings as shown, insert an open ring through the space formed when you separate the two pairs of rings. Imagine that you are running your ring through the space that allows you to go through the last four rings at one time **(e)**. Close the ring. Run a second ring through the same path. You now have a 2-2-2 chain **(f)**.

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- Sterling silver jump rings
  80 18-gauge 5mm ID, 20 rings/in.
  4 18-gauge 3.5mm ID
- **12** 8mm round crystals, beads or pearls in **2** different colors
- 8 in. (20cm) medium beading wire
- **4** crimps
- **4** crimp covers
- Clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Crimping pliers
- Wire tie or piece of wire

a

b

c

d

e

f

g

h

i

j

8. Continue inserting two rings into the space formed between the last two pairs of rings as in step 7 until you have used half of the 5mm rings **(g)**.
9. Make another chain component with the remaining 5mm rings, repeating steps 5–8.

COMPLETE THE CHAIN

10. Open the 3.5mm ring on one end of your beading component, and run this open ring through two of the end rings on one of the chain components **(h)**.
11. Repeat step 10, only open the 3.5mm ring on the other end of the beading component and attach it to the other piece of the chain components.
12. If the bracelet is too long, remove equal amounts of rings from each end of the bracelet until the bracelet is the length you desire. Attach a clasp half to each end of the chain **(i)**. If you want to use your other beading component, open the end 3.5mm rings and attach to the other piece **(j)**.

The Elegance of COLOR & TEXTURE

Believe it or not, you can use color and texture in chain mail weaves without always using crystals, pearls, or beads. Jump rings can come in many different shades. Yellow gold-filled rings, rose gold-filled rings, and niobium colored rings add interest to my sterling silver chains. The silver, rose, and yellow rings can also be made from twisted wire, which gives the chain texture. Sometimes I will combine sparkle (crystals), color, and texture all in one chain.

CHAIN OF LINKS
Set

In these pieces, you are taking jump rings to form links (circles) and weaving them into their own "link" or circle of chain. In the large bracelet (p. 59), I added twisted rings to the weave to give texture and added sparkle to the chain. For the smaller version, I used two colors of jump rings for added beauty.

SMALL TWO-TONE BRACELET

Build the Link

1. Starting with all silver rings, open 64 rings and close two rings. Run an open ring through the two closed rings and close. Run a second ring through the same path. Run a piece of wire through two end rings, bend the wire in half, and twist the ends of the wire closed. You now have a 2-2 chain.
2. Add another set of two rings to the two end rings of your chain. You now have a 2-2-2 chain **(a)**. Continue adding two rings at a time to the end of the chain until you have a 2-2-2-2-2.
3. Perform the bunny ears steps from the "Ladder in Mail Bracelet," p. 9 (steps 9–11), using the smooth rings from this weave.
4. Counting the locking rings as the first set of two rings, create a 2-2-2 chain **(b)**. Repeat step 3.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until you have used 64 rings and have two unused rings remaining. You will have a 2-2-2 segment on both ends of the chain **(c)**.

Close the Link

6. On one end of the chain, perform the bunny ears steps, placing the first locking ring, but not closing it yet **(d)**.
7. Position the 2-2-2 segment on the other end of the chain in the

a

b

c

d

Materials

Small Two-Tone Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **2** 18-gauge 6mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- **462** 21-gauge 2.5mm ID yellow gold-filled jump rings
- **462** 21-gauge 2.5mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- Clasp

Large Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **4** 18-gauge 6.5mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- **396** 18-gauge 3.5mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 36 rings/link
- **198** 18-gauge 3.5mm ID twisted sterling silver jump rings, 18 rings/link
- Clasp

Necklace, 18 in. (46cm)

- **2** 18-gauge 4.5mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- **462** 21-gauge 2.5mm ID yellow gold-filled jump rings
- **1088** 21-gauge 2.5mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- Clasp

Earrings

- **2** 19-gauge 5mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- **96** 21-gauge 2.5mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- **96** 21-gauge 2.5mm ID yellow gold-filled jump rings
- Pair of earring findings

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire tie or piece of wire

e

f

g

h

i

bunny ears position, and run the open ring from step 6 as a locking ring through the end of the chain also **(e)**. Close the ring. Run another ring through the same path. The link is now a continuous circle with no beginning or end **(f)**.

Note: You may want to use two pairs of chainnose pliers to close the locking rings in step 7. The space is very tight. Sometimes I use one chainnose and my fingers to close these rings.

Interlock the Links

8. Repeat steps 1–5, alternating silver links with yellow gold-filled links, but run the end of the chain through the completed link before repeating steps 6 and 7 **(g)**.

Complete the Chain

9. Continue to build and interlock links, alternating between silver and gold links until you have made 14 interlocked links. Fit the piece to your wrist, taking into account the length of your clasp. Add or remove links as needed.
10. Run a 6mm ring around an end link and also through the loop on your clasp, and close. Repeat with another 6mm ring on the other end of your chain with the other half of your clasp. For the clasp I used, I ran the clasp onto the final link before closing the link. Most clasps will not accommodate the chain, so you will need to use the 6mm ring for attaching **(h)**.

NECKLACE

1. Repeat steps 1–8 of the small two-tone bracelet, making six sterling silver links and seven yellow gold-filled links.
2. With silver rings, repeat steps 1–5 until you have used 50 rings and have finished with locking rings on each end. Run a 20-gauge 3mm ring through the two end locking rings on one end of the 50-ring chain, but do not close it. Slide the chain through the end link of the 13-link chain. Run the open 20-gauge ring through the two end locking rings on the other end of the 50-ring chain **(i)**. Close the ring. Run another 20-gauge ring through the same path.
3. Using the 21-gauge 2.5mm rings, make a 2-2-2 chain off the chain in step 2 above, counting the end rings from step 2 as the first set of two in the chain. Continue in the pattern for "Build the Links," but do not make circles; rather, continue in a straight chain until it measures 5½ in. (14cm). Attach a clasp with an 18-gauge 4.5mm ring through the end rings on the chain.
4. Repeating steps 1–3 above, build the other end of the chain to the same length. Run the other 18-gauge 4.5mm ring through the end rings of the chain as before.

EARRINGS

1. Make a gold link using 48 rings. Close the circle (step 7).
2. Make a silver link of 48 rings, running it through the gold link and then closing the chain into a circle.
3. Run a 19-gauge 5mm ring around the silver link and through the earring finding and close **(j)**. Make a second earring.

LARGE BRACELET

1. Follow the same directions as for the small two-tone bracelet, only using 54 rings per link (consisting of 36 smooth and 18 twisted rings). Use the twisted rings as the locking rings. Begin with a 2-2-2-2-2 chain made up of two smooth, two smooth, two twisted, two smooth, and two smooth rings, and then lock with twisted rings. Continue on in the pattern.
2. Make 11 links (or whatever you need for the desired fit), and attach a clasp.

Note: You can also make the small bracelet in just one color.

BYZANTINE KNOT *Bracelet*

a

b

c

d

e

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **56** 16-gauge 4.5mm ID twisted yellow gold-filled jump rings, 8 rings/in.
- **84** 18-gauge 3mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 12 rings/in.
- Clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire tie or piece of wire

BRACELET

1. Close a silver ring and run a wire tie or piece of wire through the ring. Bend the wire in half and twist the ends of the ring closed.
2. Run a silver ring through the end ring of the chain, and close. Run a second silver ring through the same path. Repeat, running two silver rings through the end rings of the chain. You now have a 1-2-2 chain **(a)**.
3. Repeat step 2 using twisted rings. Repeat with a second set of twisted rings. You now have a 1-2-2-2-2 chain **(b)**.
4. Perform the bunny ears steps from the "Ladder in Mail Bracelet," p. 9 (steps 9–11), and lock with two silver rings **(c)**.
5. Run two silver rings through the locking rings. Then add two silver rings to the end of the chain. Add two twisted rings and then two more twisted rings to the end of the chain. You now have a 2-2-2-2-2 chain **(d)**.
6. Repeat steps 4 and 5 until you reach the desired length. Remove the wire from the end of the chain and open the end ring and attach half of the clasp **(e)**. Repeat on the other end of the completed chain.

FLOWER
Bracelet

Twisted ring flowers alternate with smooth ring flowers, giving this piece an elegant, fine-jewelry effect.

BUILD THE FLOWERS

1. Open two twisted rings and close one twisted ring. Run the first open ring through the closed ring, and close **(a)**. Run the second open ring through both closed rings, and close. Nest the rings together **(b)**. This is your first flower. I start with a twisted flower and end with a twisted flower, but you can build it how you wish.
2. Repeat step 1 to make a smooth flower **(c)**.

CONNECT THE FLOWERS

3. Run a connector ring through the twisted flower and the smooth flower, and close. Run a second connector ring through the same path **(d)**.
4. Continue making flowers and connecting them in an alternating pattern of twisted – smooth – twisted – smooth, etc.
5. Run a smooth ring through the end flower and the clasp, and close. Run a smooth ring through the other end of the chain **(e)**.

Note: If using another type of clasp, attach with a ring to each end of the chain.

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **33** 18-gauge 5mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 3 rings/flower (smooth)
- **36** 16-gauge 5mm ID twisted sterling silver jump rings, 3 rings/flower (twisted)
- **45** 18-gauge 4mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- Clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers

Note: This weave can be made into a pair of linear earrings or a necklace of any desired length. Three flowers make an inch of chain, so you can design other pieces as you wish.

LOVE KNOT
Bracelet

MAKE A KNOT

1. Close one and open 13 20-gauge rings. With one of the open rings, pick up the closed ring and close. Nest the rings on the mat **(a)**.
2. Run another open ring through the nest of rings, and close. Nest the rings together on the mat **(b)**.
3. Repeat step 2 until you have used all of the open rings from step 1. Always remember to nest the rings nicely after the addition of each ring. This completes a small silver love knot **(c)**. Make seven silver knots.
4. Repeat steps 1–3 with yellow gold-filled rings. Make three yellow gold-filled knots.
5. Repeat steps 1–3 with rose gold-filled rings. Make three rose gold-filled knots.

CONNECT THE KNOTS

6. Close a connector ring, and run the wire tie through it. Bend the wire in half and twist the ends of the wire closed.
7. Run a connector ring through the ring from step 6 and any two rings on one of the silver knots. Close the ring. Run a second ring through the same path **(d)**.
8. Run a connector ring through any two rings on the other side of the silver knot from step 7. Before closing, run the ring through any two rings on a yellow gold-filled knot. Run a second ring through the same path.
9. Run a connector ring through any two rings on the other side of the yellow gold-filled knot from step 8. Before closing, run the ring through any two rings on a silver knot. Run a second ring through the same path **(e)**.
10. Repeat steps 8 and 9 until you have used all of the knots. Your bracelet should be made of knots in the following sequence: silver – yellow – silver – rose – silver – yellow – silver – rose – silver – yellow – silver – rose – silver (seven silver, three yellow, and three rose knots in total). Add or remove knots as needed to make the correct fit.
11. Remove the wire tie from the end ring. Open the end connector ring, and run it through half of the clasp. On the other end of the chain, run two connector rings through two rings on the end knot. Run a connector ring through these two rings and the other half of the clasp **(f)**. (If desired, connect the knot directly to the clasp.)

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **42** 18-gauge 6mm ID yellow gold-filled jump rings, 3 knots total
- **42** 18-gauge 6mm ID rose gold-filled jump rings, 3 knots total
- **2** 18-gauge 6mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- **98** 20-gauge 5mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 7 knots total
- **54** 18-gauge 3.5mm ID sterling silver jump rings (connector)
- Clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire tie or piece of wire

HUGS & KISSES *Set*

I made this bracelet with X's and O's, and my husband decided to call the piece Hugs & Kisses. This beautiful jewelry is made with love.

BRACELET

"X" Segment

1. Build a 1-2-2 chain of sterling silver rings **(a)**.
2. Run two rings through the single ring in step 1.
3. Run two rings through the two rings in step 2. You now have a single ring that has a 2-2 chain on each end **(b)**.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 twice. You now have a single ring that has four 2-2 chains running off of it **(c)**.
5. Perform the "bunny ears" steps from the "Ladder in Mail Bracelet," p. 9 (steps 9–11), on one set of 2-2 rings. This is the first arm of your "X" segment **(d)**.
6. Repeat step 5 on the other three sets of 2-2 rings so that you now have four arms to your "X" segment **(e).**

"O" Segment

7. Close one twisted ring. Run a second twisted ring through the first ring and close. Nest the two rings nicely together on the mat **(f)**.
8. Run a third twisted ring through the two nested rings, and close. Nest the three rings together so they lie on your mat as shown **(g)**. This completes the "O" segment.

Connect the "X"s and "O"s

9. Run a connector ring through the two flipped down rings of one point of the X as shown **(h)**. This photo shows the X segment from its edge, not from the

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **21** 16-gauge 7mm ID twisted yellow gold-filled jump rings
- **175** 18-gauge 4mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 25 rings/in.
- **28** 18-gauge 4mm yellow gold-filled jump rings (connector)
- Two-row clasp

Earrings

- **12** 16-gauge 7mm ID twisted yellow gold-filled jump rings
- **50** 18-gauge 4mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- **12** 18-gauge 4mm ID yellow gold-filled jump rings
- **2** 21-gauge 2.5mm ID yellow gold-filled jump rings
- Pair of earring findings

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers

i

j

k

l

top or the bottom **(i)**. I have closed the ring in the picture for you to better see the placement, but you should not close the ring.

10. Run the open connector ring from step 9 through an "O" segment and close the ring, keeping the nesting nicely in place.
11. Repeat steps 9 and 10 through the flipped-down rings of the point beside the first connector ring you placed in steps 9 and 10 **(j)**. You have now connected an "X" to an "O".
12. Continue making "X"s and "O"s, connecting them together in a chain until you reach the desired length. Run connector rings through either an "X" or an "O" and a loop on the clasp. Repeat on the other end of the bracelet **(k)**.

EARRINGS

Make one "X" segment and two "O" segments, and connect them together. Run two 18-gauge 4mm yellow gold-filled rings through one "O" segment. Run a 21-gauge 2.5mm ring through these rings and also through the loop on an earring finding **(l)**. Repeat to make a second earring.

STRETCHABLE NESTED *Bracelet*

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **28** 16-gauge 6.25mm ID (¼ in.) rubber rings, 4 rings/in.
- **56** 16-gauge 7mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 8 rings/in. (large)
- **56** 17-gauge 5.6mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 8 rings/in. (small)

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire tie or piece of wire

This unique bracelet uses a combination of sterling silver rings and colored rubber rings. There is no beginning or end to this stretchy bangle!

BRACELET

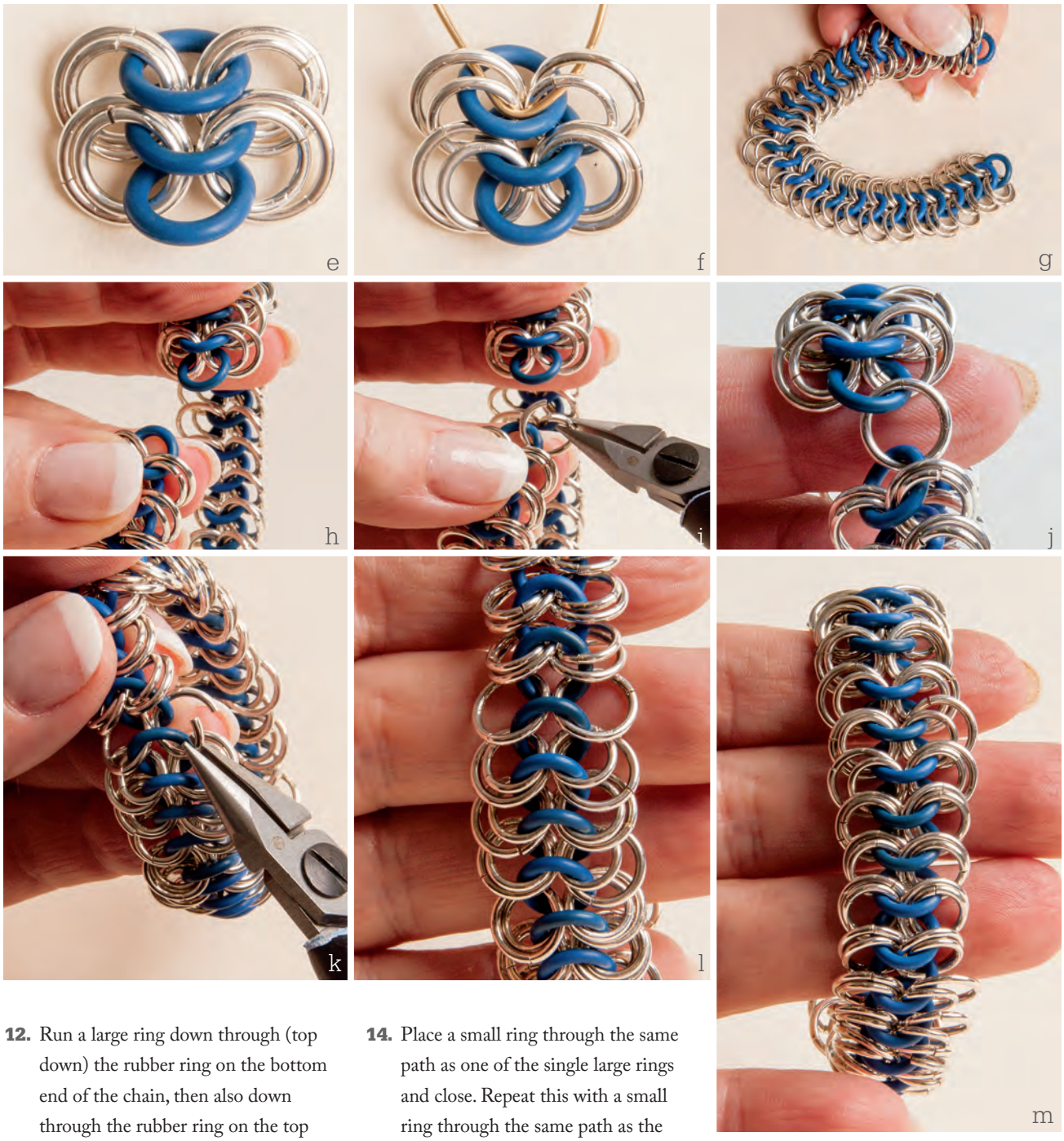
1. With an open large ring, pick up two rubber rings and close. Run a second large ring through the same path. Place the rings into the position shown **(a)**.
2. Run an open small ring through the same path as one of the large rings in step 1 above, and close. This ring should nest on top of the large ring. Run a second small ring through the same path as the second large ring from step 1, and close. This ring should nest on top of the second large ring **(b)**.
3. With an open large ring, pick up a rubber ring and then run the large ring through the bottom rubber ring in the chain. Close. Position the chain as shown **(c)**.
4. Run a large ring through the last two rubber rings, placing it beside the last large ring that was added, and close **(d)**.
5. Repeat step 2, nesting two small rings on top of the last two added large rings **(e)**.
6. Run a piece of wire from the bottom of the chain up through the first set of nested rings and across and down through the second set of nested rings beside it. Bend the wire in half and twist the ends of the wire shut. It is important to run the wire exactly as shown so that the chain will not collapse **(f)**.
7. Repeat steps 3–5 until you reach the desired length.
8. Remove the piece of wire **(g)**.
9. In one hand, hold both ends of the bracelet in the position shown. Be sure the bracelet is not twisted when you pick up the loose end **(h)**.
10. Run a large ring up through the rubber ring (going from underneath) on the lower end of the bracelet as shown. Do not close the ring yet **(i)**. Run the ring up through the bottom (underneath) of the rubber ring on the upper end of the bracelet, and close **(j)**.
11. Turn the bracelet around and hold the other side. Do not turn the bracelet inside out. The rings should still be nesting in the same manner as before.

a

b

c

d



12. Run a large ring down through (top down) the rubber ring on the bottom end of the chain, then also down through the rubber ring on the top end of the chain **(k)**. Close the ring.

13. See the two closed large rings that do not have a nested small ring **(l)**. Note how all of the rubber rings lie in the same direction, as do all of the silver rings. It is important that the pattern continues in this manner.

14. Place a small ring through the same path as one of the single large rings and close. Repeat this with a small ring through the same path as the other single large ring and close **(m)**.

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN *Bracelet*

BRACELET

1. Close a silver ring and run it on a wire tie. Position the ring on the center of the wire, bend the wire in half, and twist the two ends closed **(a)**.
2. Open three rings and close two rings, remembering that the closed rings are always the colored rings for the two-tone bracelet. With an open ring, pick up the two closed rings. Do not close the ring yet **(b)**.
3. Run the open ring through the ring on the wire tie **(c)**. Close the ring. You now have a 1-1-2 chain.
4. Pick up another open ring and run it through the two rings on the end of the chain. Do not close the ring yet **(d)**.
5. Twist the open ring around so that it runs through the first ring on the chain. Be sure that the open ring runs through the first ring in the same direction that it ran through the two rings on the end of the chain. In other words, if you ran your ring from left to right through the two rings, then also run this ring from left to right through the ring on the wire **(e)**. Close the ring **(f)**.

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

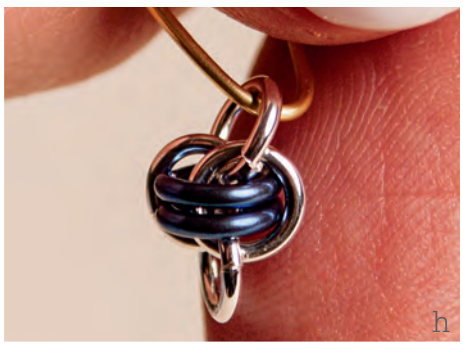
- **90** 18-gauge 3.5mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 12 rings/in.
- **60** 18-gauge 3.5mm ID colored jump rings (niobium, yellow gold-filled, or other color)
- Clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire tie or piece of wire

Note: The closed rings are the colored rings, and all open rings are the silver rings. This makes your colored rings look like the treads of the stairs.

g


h

i

j

6. Run an open ring through the hole made by the overlapped rings keeping it below the paired rings **(g)**. Close the ring. Another way to say this is to run the ring through the shared space of the two rings, always being sure to keep the new ring below the middle rings. You have now completed the first component of the bracelet. The ring that you just placed is also considered the first ring of the next component **(h)**.
7. Repeat steps 2–6, connecting in step 3 with the end ring of the chain, until you reach the desired length. The picture shows two components in the chain **(i)**.

Note: Always be sure to add ring components on the same end of the bracelet, keeping the wire on the beginning end of the chain. If you take the wire off and add a component to that end of the chain, the new component will angle in a different direction than the other components.

8. Run an open ring through the ring on one end of the chain and half of the clasp. Close the ring. Repeat on the other end of the chain, attaching the other end of the clasp **(j)**.

Note: You can make a linear pair of earrings by building chains of three or four components, or whatever length you desire, and attaching to earring findings.

MAJESTIC
Bracelet

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **95** 18-gauge 3.5mm ID yellow gold-filled jump rings
- **76** 18-gauge 3.5mm ID rose gold-filled jump rings
- **327** 18-gauge 3.5mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- Two-row clasp

Variation with a Twist

- **171** 18-gauge 3.5mm ID twisted sterling silver rings
- **327** 18-gauge 3.5mm ID sterling silver rings
- Two-row clasp

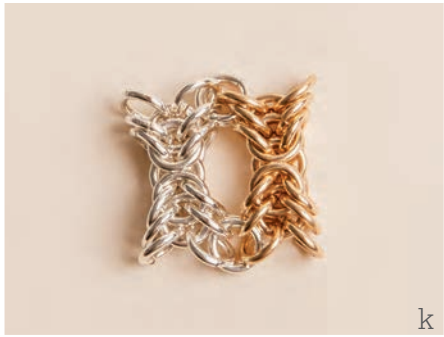
Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers

CHAIN SEGMENT

1. Begin with silver rings: Close two. Run an open ring through the two rings, and close. Run a second ring through the same path. You now have a 2-2 chain.
2. Run an open ring through the two end rings, and close. You now have a 2-2-1 chain.
3. Build a 2-2-1-2-2 chain **(a)**.
4. Close a ring and set it aside. Open four rings, ensuring that two of the rings are opened fairly wide. Flip the two end rings down and hold them between your thumb and first finger. Split the end rings apart **(b)**.
5. Spread apart the edges of the flipped-down rings that are down between the spread-apart rings in step 4. Place the closed ring down in between the edges of the flipped down rings, and hold it in place **(c)**. Run a widely opened ring through the edges of the flipped-down rings and through the closed ring that was placed between them. Close the ring **(d)**.
6. Run a second widely opened ring through the same path **(e)**.
7. Split apart the last two rings that you just placed. Run an open ring through the single ring going between the rings you just split, and close **(f)**. Run a second ring through the same path.
8. Repeat steps 4–7 on the other end of the chain. You have completed a chain segment **(g)**.

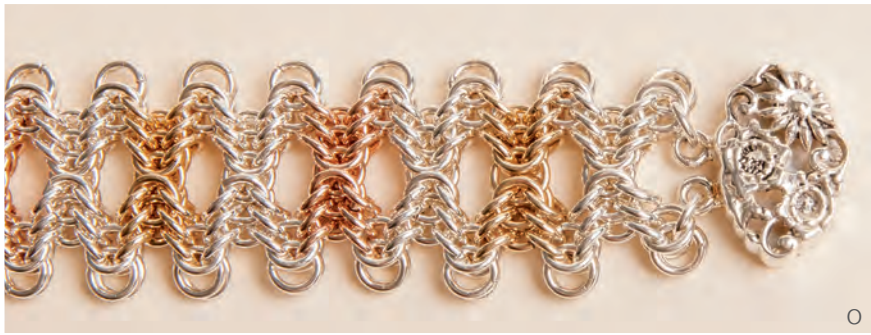
j


k

l

m

n


o

Note: Always start with a smooth silver chain segment and end with a smooth or twisted segment, depending upon the length that you need. For the variation with a twist, every other chain segment will be a twisted segment. For the standard bracelet, alternate *silver segment, yellow segment, silver segment, rose segment* and repeat between asterisks across the chain.

CONNECT THE CHAIN SEGMENTS

9. Repeat steps 1–8 with the appropriate rings to make the second chain segment (yellow for the standard bracelet and twisted for the twisted bracelet) **(h)**.

Note: The connector rings that attach segments are always silver rings.

10. Run an open silver ring through two of the top rings on one side of one end of a chain segment (start with a silver smooth segment). Don't close the ring **(i)**.
11. With the same ring, run it through the top two rings of the second chain segment (yellow or twisted) and close **(j)**. Run a second ring through the same path.
12. Repeat steps 10 and 11 on the other end of the two chain segments **(k)**.
13. Split the two end rings apart and run a ring through the two rings that are between the split rings **(l)**. Close the ring. Run a second ring through the same path.
14. Repeat step 13 on the other end of the chain segments. You have now connected two chain segments together **(m)**.

COMPLETE THE CHAIN

15. Continue making chain segments in the color or texture combination for your bracelet and attaching them together until you have reached the desired length **(n)**.
16. Attach a clasp half on each end of the bracelet the same way you attached two segments together **(o)**.

HONEYCOMB *Bracelet*

a

b

c

d

e

f

g

h

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **176** 18-gauge 4mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- **60** 18-gauge 4mm ID yellow gold-filled jump rings
- **50** 18-gauge 4mm ID rose gold-filled jump rings
- Two-row clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire tie or piece of wire

BRACELET

1. Using silver rings, close two rings. With an open ring, pick up two closed rings, and close. Run a second ring through the same path.
2. Continue adding rings until you have a 2-2-2-2-2 chain. This means you have a chain of five rows with two rings in each row **(a)**.
3. Hold the chain between your fingers, flip the two end rings down **(b)**, and place the flipped rings between your thumb and first finger **(c)**.
4. Insert an open ring through the outside edge of two flipped down rings **(d)**. Close the ring. This is a connector ring.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 on the other end of the chain, staying on the same side of the chain as the ring you placed in step 4. This is another connector ring.
6. Run the wire tie through the two added rings. Position as shown **(e)**.
7. Repeat steps 1 and 2 using yellow gold rings.
8. Repeat steps 3 and 4, but before closing, also run the ring through a set of flipped-down rings on the silver segment on the wire tie. Close **(f)**.
9. Repeat step 8 on the other end of the yellow gold chain and also connect it to the silver segment as in step 8. You have now connected two segments together **(g)**.

Note: The connector rings between segments are always silver.

10. Continue building and connecting segments in an alternating pattern of: *silver – yellow – silver – rose*, repeating between asterisks across the length of the chain.
11. Once you have reached the desired length, connect the clasp by running an open ring through the segment on the end of the chain and through a loop on the clasp. Do this on both the top and bottom flipped rings of the end segment, connecting both loops of the two-row clasp. Remove the wire tie from the other end of the chain and repeat, connecting the other half of the chain **(h)**.

ROSE
Bracelet

BRACELET

1. Open six silver rings and close two rings. With an open ring, pick up the two closed rings and close. Run a second ring through the same path. You how have a 2-2 chain **(a)**.
2. Run the pick from right to left through the four rings so they are positioned on the pick as shown **(b)**.
3. Pick up an open ring and run it through the fours rings on the underside of the pick, and close **(c)**. You will probably have to move the rings close to the point end of the pick so that there will be room for the ring to slide through. Run a second ring through the same path, and be sure and keep track of these last two rings you have placed.
4. Lift up the two hanging rings, and run the pick through the back side of them as shown **(d)**. These six rings make a rose.
5. Slide an open (connector) ring along the underside of the pick, and slip the pick out of the rings. Close the ring. Run a second ring through the same path. You now have a six-ring rose hanging from two connector rings **(e)**. Run a piece of wire through the two connector rings, bend the wire in half, and twist the ends of the wire closed.

Note: In this project, connector rings are always silver.

6. Repeat step 1 with six yellow gold-filled rings and two silver (connector) rings. Build the rose from the six rings and place the first connector ring as in step 5, only before closing the ring, run it through the first silver rose **(f)**. Close the ring. Run a second ring through the same path. You have now connected two roses together.
7. Continue building and connecting roses across the chain using the following pattern for the roses: *silver – yellow – silver – rose*, repeating between the asterisks across the length of the chain. Remember to connect only with silver rings.
8. Once you have reached the desired length, run a connector through the end rose and half of the clasp.
9. Run a second connector ring through the same path, if it will fit. Repeat on the other end of the chain with the other half of the clasp **(g)**.

Materials

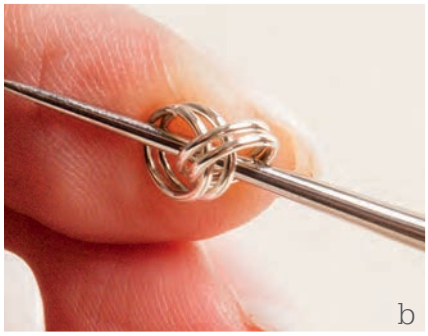
Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

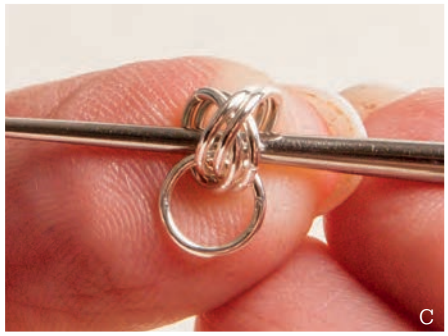
- **96** 20-gauge 5mm ID sterling silver jump rings
- **30** 20-gauge 5mm ID yellow gold-filled jump rings
- **30** 20-gauge 5mm ID rose gold-filled jump rings
- Clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Jewelers pick/awl
- Wire tie or piece of wire

a


b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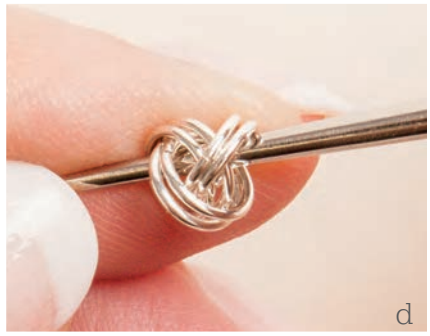

d

e

f

g

GRIDLOCK BYZANTINE *Bracelet*

a

b

c

GRIDLOCK SECTION

1. Begin with the 18-gauge 5mm rings. Close four and open one ring. Pick up the closed rings with the open ring and close. Position the rings as shown **(a)**.
2. Close two rings and open one. Pick up the closed rings with the open ring, but do not close. Run the open ring through the last two rings at the end of the gridlock section, placing the open ring above the last middle ring in the beginning section. Close the ring. Position the rings as shown **(b)**.
3. Repeat step 2, alternating the layer of the middle rings. Note that the middle rings are above, then below, and then above each other (etc.) across the gridlock section.
4. Once you have a piece of chain, attach half the clasp on one end by running an open ring through the clasp and the two end rings in the same pattern as the rest of the middle ring row. Close the ring **(c)**. You can use one or two attachment rings, depending on your clasp. After you attach the clasp, the beginning end of the chain will remain in place. You can continue across the chain or begin the overlay section at this time (p. 84).

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **144** 18-gauge 5mm ID sterling silver jump rings (gridlock), 20 rings/in.
- **112** 16-gauge 4mm ID twisted sterling silver jump rings (overlay), 16 rings/in.
- Clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers

Note: For a two-tone bracelet, use yellow or rose gold-filled rings for the overlay rings.

OVERLAY SECTION

5. Use 16-gauge 4mm twisted rings for this section. Note the position of the gridlock and ensure that it is as shown. Run an open ring through the two inner edges of the top two rings of the first gridlock pattern, and close. Position the ring with the bottom edge toward the middle of the chain **(d)**.
6. Run an open ring through the inner edges of the bottom two rings of the first gridlock pattern, and close. Place the ring with the top edge toward the middle of the chain as shown. Note how I have placed two sets of the top and bottom twisted rings on the chain **(e)**.
7. Continue across the bracelet, repeating steps 5 and 6, until you have placed overlay across the length of the chain.
8. Flip the bracelet over, ensuring that the overlay rings added in the last step are underneath and tipped toward the middle of the bracelet. Repeat step 5 on this side of the bracelet, but also go through the previous steps' rings as well. This means that you will go through the last row's top overlay ring, through the two gridlock rings and then through the second top overlay ring for a total of four rings. This begins to stabilize the bracelet.
9. Repeat step 6 on the bottom of the gridlock (staying on this side of the bracelet), going through four rings as in step 8 **(f)**.

Note: As you place the overlay rings, they will pull your chain shorter, so you will be building more gridlock as needed.

10. Continue across the bracelet, repeating steps 8 and 9, until you have placed overlay across this side of the bracelet for the length of the chain.
11. Once you have reached the desired length, attach the other half of the clasp to the end **(g)**.

d

e

f

g

RONDO
Bracelet

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **84** 20-gauge 5mm ID yellow gold-filled jump rings, 12 rings/in. (large)
- **396** 20-gauge 3mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 56 rings/in. (medium)
- **168** 20-gauge 2.5mm ID yellow gold-filled jump rings, 24 rings/in. (small)
- Clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers (for smaller rings, use two pair of chainnose pliers)
- Wire tie or piece of wire

Note: The color of the 3mm rings is the dominant color in the bracelet.

This is a lacy example of an elegant chain mail bracelet. The two-tone, five-row weave is interesting and fun to make.

ROW ONE

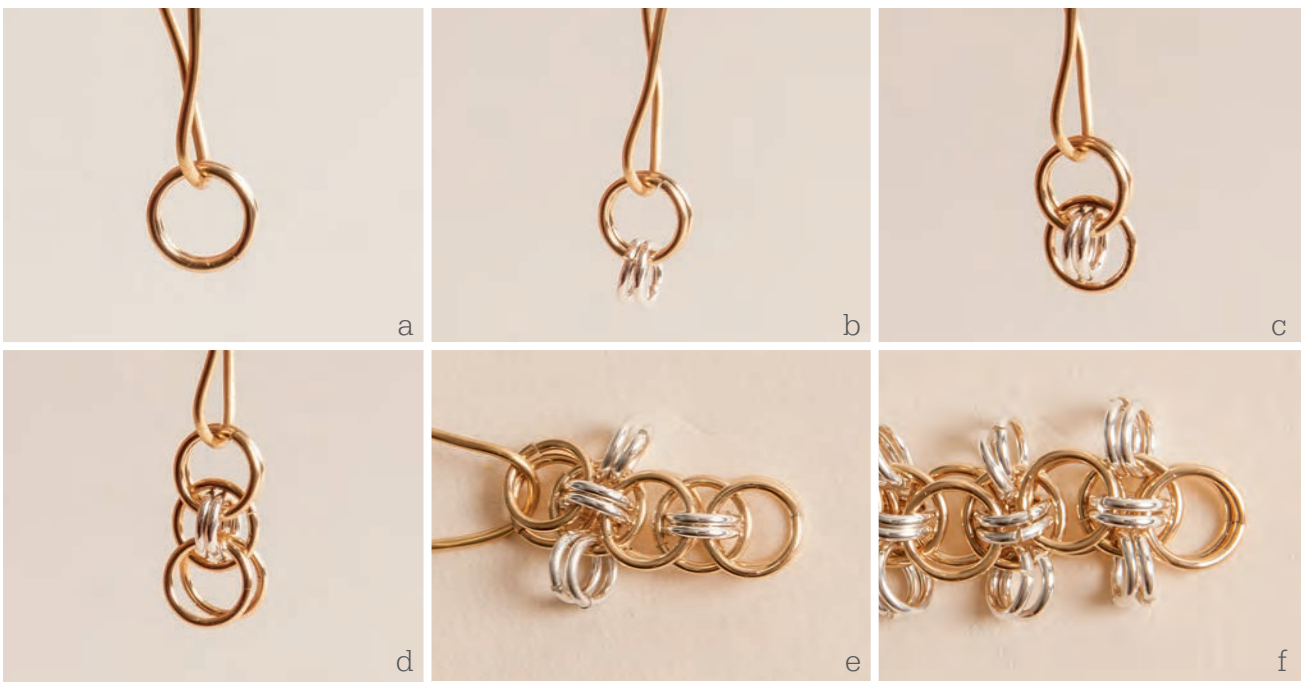
1. Close two large rings. Run a piece of wire through the rings, bend the wire in half, and twist the ends of the wire closed **(a)**.
2. Run a medium ring through the large rings, and close. Run a second medium ring through the same path **(b)**.
3. Run an open large ring between the two large rings on the wire tie and at the same time go around the two medium rings. Close the ring. This is a "floater" ring, since it does not go through any other rings, only around and between rings **(c)**.
4. Run a large ring through the two medium rings on one side of the floater ring, and close.
5. Flip the chain over and repeat step 4 on the other side of the floater ring **(d)**.
6. Repeat steps 2–5 across the bracelet. (You may just do a 2–3-in. (5–7.6cm) chain and then start row two.)

ROW TWO

7. Run a medium ring through the first floater ring in the chain and close. Run a second ring through the same path.
8. Repeat step 7 on the other edge of the same floater ring in the chain **(e)**.
9. Repeat steps 7 and 8 in each floater ring across the bracelet **(f)**.

ROW THREE

10. At the start of the chain, run a medium ring through two of the rings added in row two, being sure to go through one ring from two different side-by-side floater rings. Run a second medium ring through the same path. Repeat this along the same edge of the chain across the length of the bracelet.



g

h

i

j

11. Repeat step 10, going through medium rings along the other edge of the floater rings across the length of the bracelet **(g)**.

ROW FOUR

12. Run a medium ring through two of the rings added in row two, just above the two large rings inserted in row one. You are running through two side-by-side medium rings. Repeat this step along the same edge of the chain across the length of the bracelet.

13. Repeat step 12, going through the medium rings along the other edge of the chain across the length of the bracelet **(h)**. Note in the picture that I have placed four rings in this row (two on the top edge and two on the bottom edge). The awl is pointing to the first one placed in the chain.

14. Flip the chain over and repeat steps 12 and 13 across the length of the bracelet.

ROW FIVE

15. Run a small ring through two of the rings that you placed in row four along one edge of the bracelet. Run two more small rings through the same path. Repeat across the length of the bracelet.

16. Repeat step 15 on the other edge of the chain across the length of the bracelet **(i)**.

CLASP ATTACHMENT

17. When your chain is the desired length, remove the wire from the end of the chain. Also, remove the two large rings the wire went through and replace them with two medium rings. You will have placed a medium ring on each side of the floater ring.

18. Run a medium ring through the two rings from step 17 and half the clasp, and close. If there is room, run a second ring through the same path.

19. Repeat steps 17 and 18 on the other end of the chain with the other half of the clasp. If using a toggle as I did, add 3–4 rings in a single-row chain and attach to the bar end of the clasp **(j)**.

DOUBLE VISION
Bracelet

A chunky chain displays elegance in its own unique way. Make a smooth, two-tone piece, or exchange the yellow gold-filled rings for twisted rings that give texture, sparkle, and shine.

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **72** 16-gauge 5.5mm ID sterling silver jump rings 10 rings/in.
- **36** 16-gauge 5.5mm ID yellow gold-filled jump rings, 5 rings/in.
- Clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire tie or piece of wire

BRACELET

1. Close a silver ring and run a wire tie through it. Bend the wire tie in half and twist the ends of the wire closed.
2. Run an open silver ring through the end ring, and close. Run a second ring through the same path. Run another silver ring through the two end rings and close. You have a 1-2-1 chain **(a)**.
3. Position the rings on your fingers as shown **(b)**. Run the end of a gold ring through the bottom silver ring, and then through the top silver ring as shown **(c)**. Close the ring. Run a second ring through the same path to the right of the first gold ring, and close **(d)**.
4. Run two silver rings through the shared opening of the two silver rings in the chain. Close the rings. You have now completed one segment of the chain.
5. Run a silver ring through the two bottom silver rings, and close. Run a second ring through the same path. You now have a 2-2 chain below the gold rings **(e)**.
6. Run a silver ring through the two bottom rings, and close. You have a 2-2-1 chain below the two gold rings **(f)**.
7. Repeat steps 3–7 across the chain until it is the desired length.
8. Remove the wire and open the end ring. Run it through half your clasp, and close. Use a silver ring to attach the other half of the clasp **(g)** on the other end.

a

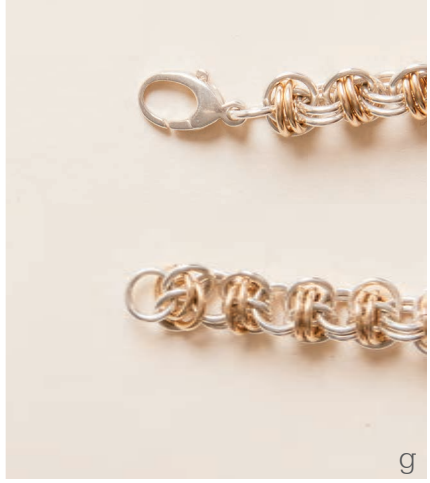
b

c

d

e

f


g

GARTER CHAIN WITH A TWIST *Bracelet*

a

b

c

d

e

f

g

BRACELET

1. Close a large ring and a twisted ring. Place the closed twisted ring on top of the closed large ring. This is your first "pair" of rings. Note that the twisted ring does not fit down into the smooth ring, but rather lies on top of the smooth ring **(a)**. This is considered the top side of the bracelet.
2. Place a wire through the two rings in step 1. Bend the wire in half and twist the ends of the wire closed. Run a small ring through the two rings in step 1, and close **(b)**.
3. Run a large ring through the small ring from step 2, and close. Run a twisted ring through the same path. This is your second pair of rings. Be sure that the twisted ring is on top of the large ring, matching the first pair in the chain **(c)**.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 (without using a wire), adding pairs of rings to the chain. Once you have eight or more pairs you can begin to develop the chain **(d)**.
5. Run a large ring from the bottom up through the first pair of rings. Do not close the ring **(e)**. Run the ring also from the bottom up through the next pair of rings in the chain and close **(f)**. Run a twisted ring through the same path **(g)**.

Materials

Bracelet, 7 in. (18cm)

- **56** 16-gauge 7mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 8 rings/in. (large)
- **56** 16-gauge 5.5mm ID twisted yellow gold-filled jump rings, 8 rings/in. (twisted)
- **56** 18-gauge 5mm ID sterling silver jump rings, 8 rings/in. (small)
- Two-row clasp

Tools

- Chainnose pliers
- Flatnose pliers
- Wire tie or piece of wire

h

i

j

k

l

m

Note: The pair of rings with the wire is the first pair of rings. The second pair of rings is the set you just added. The third pair is the next step up and to the left. The loose pair is the uppermost pair of rings that have not been totally woven into the chain yet. If it helps, think of the bottom pair as pair one. You added pair two, and all even pairs are on the right hand side of the chain. The odd-numbered pairs go up the left side of the chain.

6. Run a large ring up through the back of pair three and also up through the back of the next loose pair of rings **(h)**. Close the ring **(i)**. Run a twisted ring through the same path, and close **(j)**.
7. Run a small ring down through pair two and up from the bottom through pair four (both are on the right side of the chain). Close the ring **(k)**.
8. Repeat steps 6 and 7 (repeat step 4 to add loose pairs of rings as needed), beginning by coming up from the bottom of the last even pair (right side) and then up from the bottom of the next loose pair **(l)**. Continue until you reach the desired length.
9. Run a small ring through the last two pairs on the right side of the chain and also through a loop on half the clasp. Run a small ring through the last pair of rings on the left side of the chain and through the other loop on the clasp **(m)**. Repeat on the other end of the chain with the other half of the clasp.

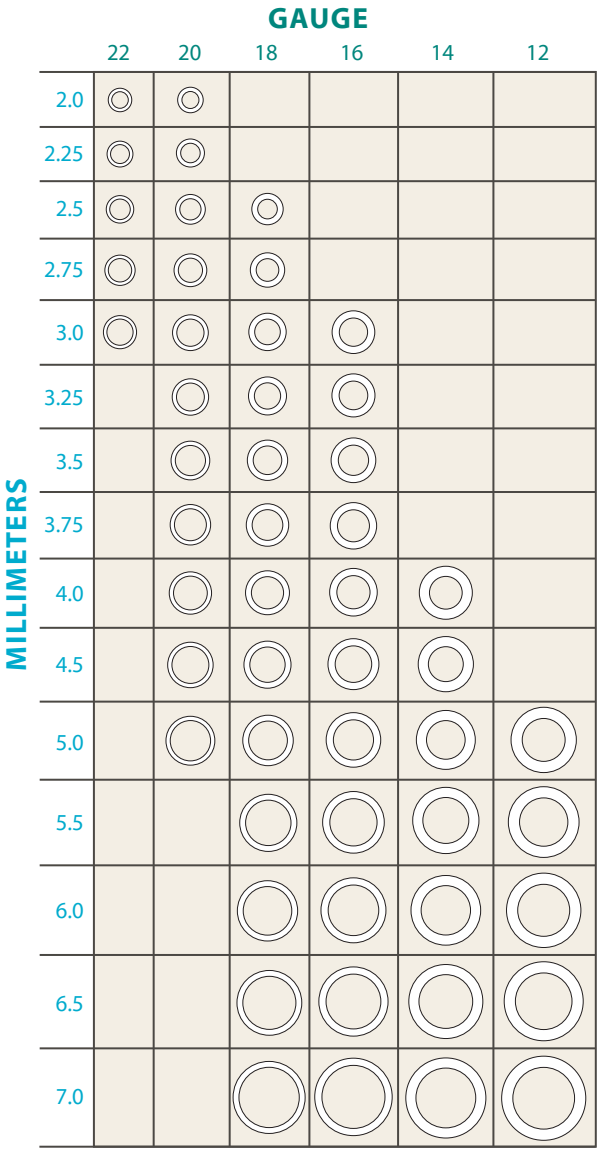
APPENDIX

Jump Ring Wire Gauge

In chain mail, it is important to know the thickness of the wire that makes the jump ring. The thickness is measured in three different ways. It can be measured in the imperial system or in thousandths of an inch (i.e. .040 in.), in the metric system or in millimeters (i.e. 1mm), or by gauge size. I use gauge size as the method for measuring the thickness of the jump rings in these instructions. Others may use the metric or the imperial system for their jump rings or pattern directions. It is important to know the method of measurement used by the instructions you are following or for the jump rings you are buying.

There are two standards for wire gauge in the industry: the American Wire Gauge (AWG), also known as the Brown & Sharpe wire gauge, and the Standard Wire Gauge (SWG). In the United States, most manufacturers use AWG. If you buy jump rings from Canada or other countries outside of the U.S., you might well be buying them in the SWG system. It is always important to know the wire gauge system being used for the rings you are purchasing.

For these projects, I use gauge in the AWG system to measure the thickness of the jump ring wire. When using gauge as your measurement, a rule of thumb is that the larger the gauge number, the thinner the thickness of the wire making the ring. For example, a 16-gauge jump ring is made of thicker wire than an 18-gauge jump ring. I use jump ring gauges starting at 12-gauge and progressing through 14-, 16-, 17-, 18-, 20-, 21-, 22-, and 24-gauge, with the 24-gauge being the thinnest ring.



Jump rings are actual size and gauge

Jump Ring Diameter: ID and OD

The diameter of a jump ring can be measured as either the Inner Diameter (ID) or the Outer Diameter (OD). The ID measures the diameter inside the jump ring and the OD measures the diameter across the outside of the jump ring. Most jump rings in chain mail patterns use the ID designation for diameter size. When buying jump rings for chain mail weaves, I recommend that you buy ID jump rings if possible.

Bringing Wire Gauge and ID Together (Aspect Ratio)

The aspect ratio is the number that represents the relationship between the wire diameter (thickness of the wire from which the jump ring is made, also called the "ring gauge") and the inner diameter (ID) of a particular size jump ring (Ring ID). Please don't let that statement scare you into thinking that we are going into higher math! I will make this very simple for you, so please continue with me.

Most chain mail weaves have a specific size of ring (or sizes of rings) that makes the weave turn out beautifully. If the rings are too large, the weave may be loose and sloppy. If the rings are too small, the weave may not work at all, or it may be tight and stiff. In my instructions, I list the rings that work well for each weave. You can use the recommended rings, or you can try the piece in a larger or smaller scale.

Aspect ratios are generally in the range of 2.9–7.0. Remember, aspect ratio is not for making a jewelry item longer or shorter, but to make it larger or smaller in scale (a thinner or thicker version). Once you know the gauge and the ring ID that works well in a weave, you can use the aspect ratio calculation to change to another size ring that will also work well in the weave and will make either a more-substantial or a finer-scale version.

Aspect Ratio Formula

The aspect ratio (AR) formula is:

AR = ring ID/wire diameter

OR

Ring ID = AR x wire diameter

Before using the formula, convert the gauge of the wire that was used to make the jump ring into millimeters (mm). The table gives the conversion for different gauges.

WIRE GAUGE	WIRE DIAMETER IN MM
14-gauge jump rings	1.63 or 1.6mm
16-gauge jump rings	1.29 or 1.3mm
17-gauge jump rings	1.14 or 1.1mm
18-gauge jump rings	1.02 or 1.0mm
19-gauge jump rings	.912 or .90mm
20-gauge jump rings	.812 or .80mm
21-gauge jump rings	.723 or .71mm
22-gauge jump rings	.644 or .65mm
24-gauge jump rings	.500 or .50mm

Aspect Ratio Calculation Example

Say you have just made a Byzantine bracelet out of 16-gauge 4.5mm ID jump rings, and you would like to make it in a finer scale—but you don't know what size jump ring would work well and maintain the integrity of the weave. Use your aspect ratio knowledge to figure it out.

First: Figure the aspect ratio of your current bracelet.

AR = 4.5mm (ring ID)/1.29 (wire diameter)

AR = 4.5/1.29

If you do the math, the answer is 3.488 (or round it to 3.5). Therefore, your AR = 3.5 for a bracelet that uses 16-gauge 4.5mm ID jump rings.

Second: Decide what gauge of jump ring wire you would like to use on your new bracelet. If you want to make the bracelet smaller in overall scale, you are going to pick 18-gauge. So, using 18-gauge jump rings and an aspect ratio of 3.5 as figured above, the ring ID you would need would be:

Ring ID = 3.5 (AR) x 1.02 (18-gauge wire diameter)

Ring ID = 3.57 or 3.5

So, you could use 18-gauge 3.5mm ID jump rings for a finer-scale Byzantine chain bracelet.

Additional Example

Suppose you wanted to use 21-gauge jump rings for a Byzantine chain to make the overall scale of the bracelet even finer. The equation would be:

Ring ID = 3.5 (AR) x .723 (21-gauge wire diameter) = 2.5mm ID

You now know that you could make a lovely Byzantine bracelet in 21-gauge 2.5mm ID jump rings.

So: You could confidently make a Byzantine bracelet in 16-gauge 4.5mm ID jump rings, 18-gauge 3.5mm ID jump rings, or 21-gauge 2.5mm ID jump rings.

FROM THE AUTHOR

It has really been a pleasure to complete a third book on chain mail jewelry. My chain mail creating and designing career has always portrayed chain mail jewelry as fine jewelry. I feel that *Chain Mail Elegance* really places chain mail in that category and proves its credibility to the world.

Again, I must thank all of my family for their support and patience as I have neglected them to work on this book. Without my husband Steve and the rest of my family, I could never have completed it. Additionally, Steve is still making the best jump rings in the world and continues to sell them on our website, **jewelrybysueonline.com**.

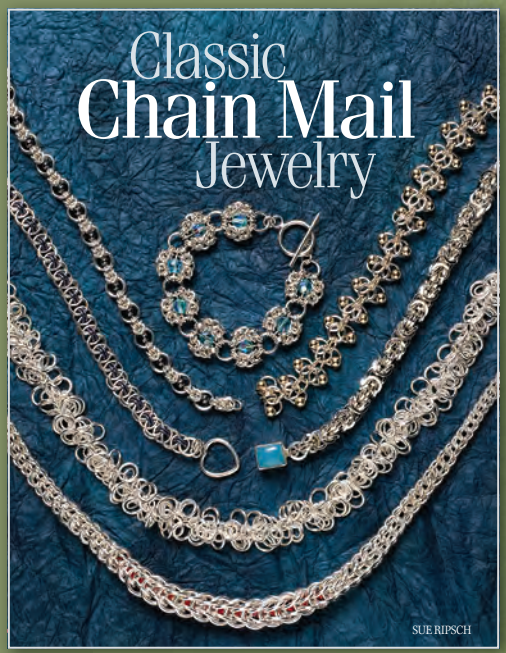
This time, I would be remiss not to thank the many friends and students who have also encouraged me in writing this book. The requests for "another book" have been many and are very much appreciated. I could not have done it without all of you.

In closing, I hope that this book will inspire you to not only make these projects, but to also branch out into the creation of other unique and beautiful designs. Many of you are "beaders" and "jewelry makers" of many types as well as chain mail creators. I hope you are inspired to add even more jewelry elements to your chain mail jewelry.

Good luck and enjoy your chain mail!

Stunning Chain Mail

from Sue Ripsch



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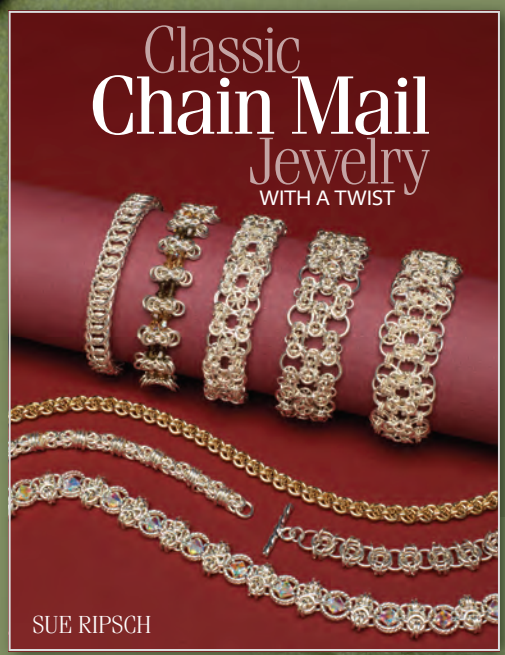

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